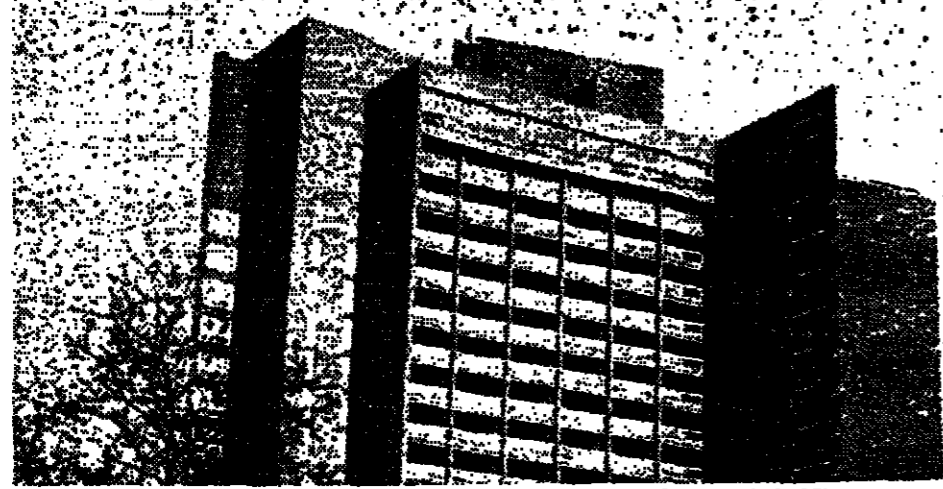


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EUROPEAN NEWS

Nato experts seek fresh arms policy

NATO disarmament experts met yesterday to begin what is widely expected to be a long operation by the Western Alliance to forge a new approach to conventional arms control with the Soviet bloc, Reuter reports from Brussels.

Nato officials said that a high-level task force, set up last month, held its first meeting with arms control experts from all 16 member states under the chairmanship of Mr. Marcello Guidi, the deputy secretary-general.

The group is expected to meet periodically over the next few months and has been instructed to produce an interim report on its work in October.

The Nato move and announcements by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, have brought the issue of the East-West balance in conventional arms and forces back into focus after years during which it was eclipsed by the nuclear missile debate in Western Europe.

The West says its forces are outgunned and outnumbered by the Warsaw Pact in Europe. Diplomats say the issue has taken on added urgency because of the increased expectations of an East-West agreement on medium-range missiles in the next few years.

The working group is mandated to come up with bold, new steps to build on the long-stalled MBFR (Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions) talks in Vienna on force reduction levels in Central Europe

and the 35-nation Stockholm Conference on European Disarmament.

But diplomats say an extremely general brief will allow it to review the whole state of play and consider prospects for widening talks to span territory from the Atlantic coast to the Soviet Ural mountains.

The present 13-year-old MBFR talks focus on cuts in manpower and arms in the Benelux states, East and West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Diplomats say that the complexity and vastness of the subject means there is little prospect of quick progress.

"Given the highly complex nature of the subject and the tight time scale, the task force is unlikely to come up with anything other than nebulous ideas by October. The whole process is likely to be a long haul," said one diplomat.

An early task of the group will be to analyse the Warsaw Pact's proposals of June 11 which suggested troop cuts in Europe by both sides of more than one million men by the early 1990s.

They have yet to be translated into concrete form at the negotiating table, but Western leaders, including President Ronald Reagan, have voiced cautious welcome for the proposals.

Diplomats say the Budapest proposals also hinted at a softening of position by the Soviet side on verification, the main sticking point in the Vienna talks.

Swedish GNP likely to grow by 2%

By Kevin Done, Nordic Correspondent in Stockholm

THE SWEDISH economy was still growing strongly in the first quarter of the year with a growth in Gross National Product (GNP) of 2 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1985, according to the Central Office of Statistics (SCB).

The latest official forecast for the whole of 1986 contained in the revised national budget suggests that GNP will grow by some 2 per cent.

According to the SCB, private consumption rose by only 1.5 per cent chiefly as a result of falling spending on items such as cars and heating oil, whereas retail sales have been expanding far more quickly.

The Swedish trade balance has improved strongly, due to falling oil prices, which are estimated to have cut the country's import bill by around SKr 6.5bn (£800m) in the first five months of the year.

The trade balance has jumped to a surplus of SKr 14bn in the first five months of 1986 compared with a surplus of only SKr 2.14bn a year earlier.

Lower oil prices account for about half of this improvement, according to the SCB.

West German trade trends distorted by fall in oil price

By JONATHAN CARR IN FRANKFURT

WEST GERMANY'S trade surplus is now falling sharply in volume terms because of booming imports and almost stagnant exports, according to the Bundesbank in its latest monthly report released today.

The central bank notes that in nominal terms the trade surplus, seasonally adjusted, rose from DM 27.5bn (£7bn) in the last third of 1985 to DM 34bn in the first third of this year.

But it underlines that this nominal increase was due to an improvement in West Germany's terms of trade caused above all by the drop in the oil price and the strength of the D-Mark against the dollar.

In volume terms, that is after excluding the price factor, the trade surplus in January-April this year was actually DM 3bn lower than it was in September-December 1985, the Bundesbank said.

The central bank's analysis comes amid calls from abroad—not least from the US—that West Germany do more to stimulate its economy, boost imports and thus help cut its trade and current account surpluses.

In nominal terms, the trade surplus rose to a record DM 32.3bn in the first third of this year, 10 per cent to the same period of 1985, while the current account surplus jumped to DM 24.6bn from DM 8.8bn before.

However, the Bundesbank stresses that the nominal

figures tend to mask the fact that German demand for imported goods is already strong and growing.

This will become quite evident once the recent cut in import prices (especially oil) comes to a halt or is even reversed, the central bank comments.

It notes that in January-April this year imports in volume terms rose by 7 per cent against the same period of 1985 while exports—previously the main engine of West German economic growth—increased by only 3 per cent.

The Bundesbank judges that the strength of the D-mark will boost the price competitiveness of foreign sellers in German markets, thus stimulating imports further.

Although the D-mark remains relatively weak within the European Monetary System (EMS), it has gained more than 40 per cent against the dollar—and nearly 10 per cent against the currencies of 14 key trading partners—since the start of last year.

The Bundesbank points out that West German exports in the first four months of this year dropped in nominal terms by 24 per cent to the Open states, by 12 per cent to the East Asian countries and by nearly 5 per cent to the Soviet Union.

Exports rose by only 2.9 per cent to the US, which in previous years has been a booming market for the West German.

Swiss may have to do without sixth N-plant

By WILLIAM DUFFELL IN GENEVA

SWITZERLAND, one of the countries most strongly committed to nuclear power, may have to do without its sixth nuclear power station, judging by anti-nuclear developments at the weekend and earlier.

The annual congress of the Socialist party, which holds two portfolios in the seven-member Federal Council (government), decided on Sunday to organise another referendum on the phasing out of nuclear power.

On Saturday the anti-nuclear movement attracted some 20,000 demonstrators to the nuclear power plant at Gessens, near Zurich, where a majority of Swiss opposed to continuing the nuclear programme.

Parliamentarians, who had previously voted for it, have admitted to being overtaken by doubts after the accident to the Soviet nuclear reactor at Chernobyl.

A survey conducted by the weekly Schweizer Illustrierte indicated that at least 25 of the 118 who had previously voted for the building of the sixth nuclear power station at Kaiseraugst had been shaken in their convictions.

The shift in opinion is most

marked in German-speaking Switzerland, which had previously been stauncher in support of nuclear power. The change is attributed largely to the influence of the vigorously renewed anti-nuclear challenge in neighbouring West Germany.

Before the Socialist party decided to push for a referendum, anti-nuclear organisations in north-west Switzerland, where Kaiseraugst is situated, had announced that they would seek a popular vote in favour of a 10-year moratorium on the building of more nuclear plants.

Both must collect 100,000 signatures to launch the lengthy process towards a referendum. It would be at least three years before a vote could be held but the government would be kept under pressure to delay the final authorisation for building the Kaiseraugst plant.

After the private consortium responsible was granted a general construction permit for Kaiseraugst in March 1985, it hopes to obtain a nuclear building permit by the end of 1986 after satisfying the authorities on safety precautions at the plant.

Kyprianou in Athens for talks on Cyprus

By ANDRIANA IERODIACONOU IN ATHENS

MR SPYROS KYPRIANOU, the President of Cyprus, arrived in Athens yesterday for consultations with the Greek Government on the deadlock in United Nations efforts to achieve a settlement for the divided island.

UN officials in Nicosia said, on the eve of the Cypriot President's journey to Athens, that Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has given up his peace initiative for Cyprus despite failure over the past year and a half to come up with a settlement plan acceptable to both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Since January 1985, Mr. de Cuellar has submitted to the two sides three draft settlement plans, all based on the idea of setting up a federal Republic in Cyprus.

The first was turned down by the Greek Cypriots on procedural grounds. The second, submitted in April 1985, which conceded procedural points to the Greek Cypriots, was turned down by the Turkish Cypriots. The third, submitted at the end of March 1986, withdrew these concessions and was again rejected by the Kyprianou Government.

The UN officials said that Mr. de Cuellar has not finalised his next move but that one possibility is the despatching of a

special envoy to Nicosia. The purpose would be for separate consultations with the two sides, particularly with a view to sounding out the Greek Cypriots' ideas on how to move the peace initiative forward.

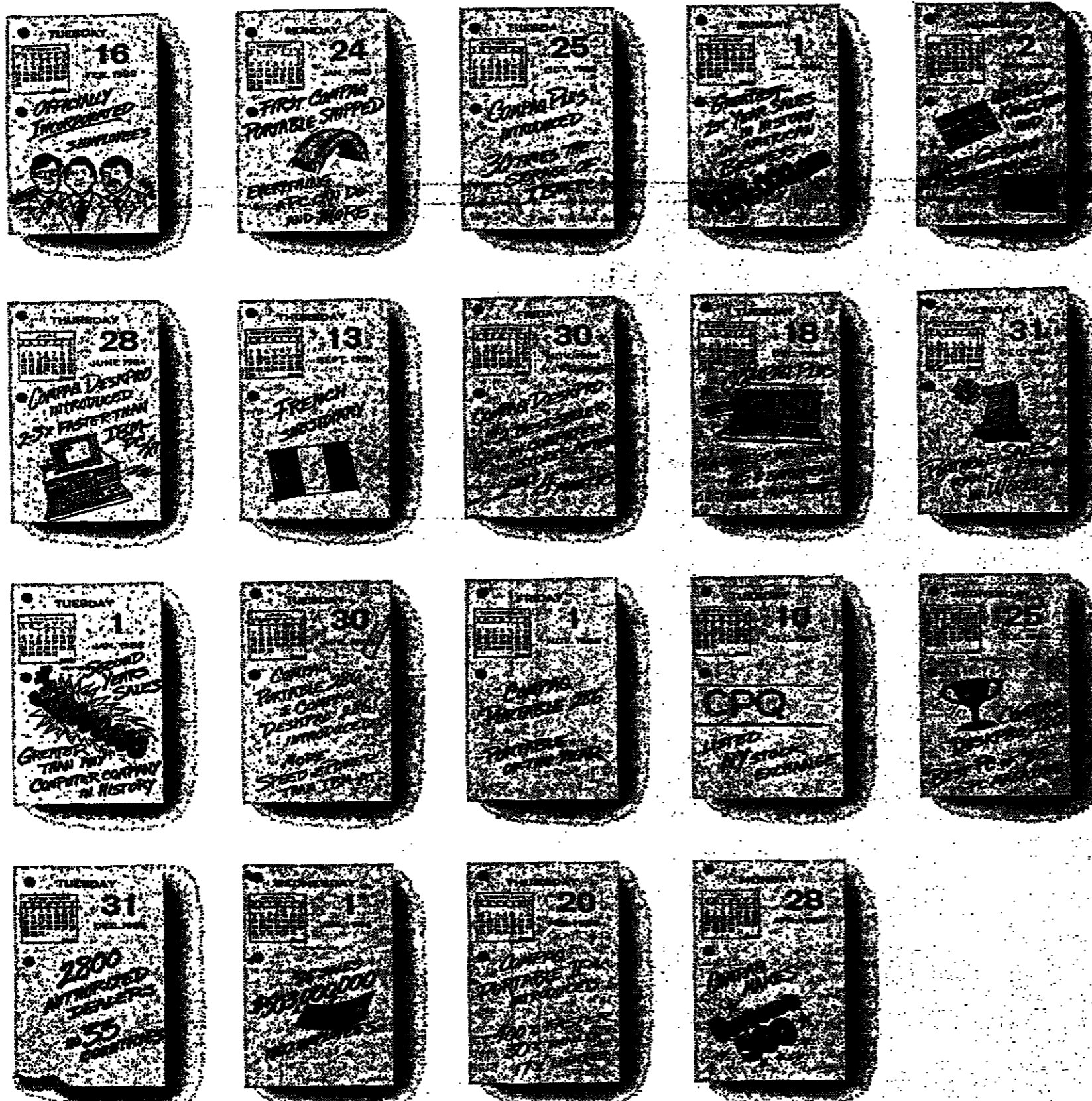
The Greek Cypriots' relations with the Secretary-General are at a low ebb since his report on Cyprus before the Security Council in early June in which he blamed them for holding up the peace effort.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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COUNTER SPY SHOP

Portuguese minority Government seeks vote of confidence

BY PETER WISE IN LISBON

PORTUGAL'S minority Social Democrat Government, faced with persistent opposition moves to block key economic legislation, presented a confidence motion in Parliament yesterday that will be voted on next week.

The decision was announced after an emergency cabinet meeting convened by Mr. Amílcar Cavaco Silva, the Prime Minister, to discuss a vote last week that denied the Government authority to bypass Parliament and enact controversial new labour laws by decree.

The Social Democrats, who came to office in an early election last October, hold only 88 of the 250 seats in Parliament and could be defeated by the combined votes of the three main opposition parties on the left and centre.

But the 45 deputies of the centrist Democratic Renewal Party, who hold the balance of power in Parliament, are widely expected not to vote against the Government.

Winning the confidence motion would give the Government greater

authority to denounce what it calls opposition attempts to subvert its programme aimed at re-establishing private enterprise as the driving force behind the economy.

A defeat would force the Government to resign.

Mr. Cavaco Silva has made the revival of strongly pro-worker labour laws a key objective in his programme.

Earlier this year, the opposition forced changes in the budget that obliged the Government to cut petrol prices and lower income tax.

The Prime Minister has warned the opposition that his Government's responsibilities will end if the opposition continues to block important legislation.

In a separate development yesterday, the Government ordered two non-diplomatic employees at the Soviet Embassy in Lisbon to leave the country within three days for "indismissible interference in Portugal's internal affairs" and "threatening the security of the state."

Sicilian voters back Christian Democrats

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ELECTORS in Sicily voting on Sunday for a new regional government have confirmed the position of the long-ruling Christian Democrat party in the island, while denying the Socialist party the electoral boost it had sought.

Both parties in the elections, which like most Italian electoral tests, produced only marginal shifts of votes, took satisfaction from seeing the Communist vote decline.

With all the 3m votes counted yesterday, the Christian Democrats had won 38.8 per cent of the poll. This represents a 0.9

per cent increase compared with last year's election for provincial councils, but a fall compared with the last regional elections in 1981 when the Christian Democrats won 41.4 per cent.

Socialists won 15 per cent of the vote, a fall of 0.7 per cent compared with last summer's poll, and only a small improvement compared with the 1981 regional elections.

The opposition Communist Party's support fell to 19.3 per cent from last year's 21 per cent and the 1981 result of 21.7 per cent.

Norwegian minister optimistic on oil prices

By Fay Gjerter in Oslo

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM about the longer-term prospects for firmer oil prices, as a result of action by the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries was expressed here yesterday by Mr. Arne Øien, Oil Minister in Norway's new Labour Government.

Mr. Øien answered some—but not all—questions he was asked about the talks in Venice on Sunday with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, his Saudi opposite number.

He agreed several weeks ago to Sheikh Yamani's request for a meeting, but the time and place were kept secret until Sunday, to foil terrorists.

The Venice discussions—which lasted five hours—came on the eve of the Opec Ministerial meeting, which starts tomorrow on the Yugoslav island of Brioni.

Sheikh Yamani had explained the situation within Opec, "and I got the impression that they are working towards a greater degree of control," Mr. Øien said.

"I have no great hopes for the near future. The short-term price outlook is uncertain, but towards the end of the year we could see a stronger price."

Prices would not firm without production cuts. "At present" there was no agreement on these, but it might be possible to work towards such agreement.

There would be no "concrete results" from the Brioni meeting, but it could lay the groundwork for co-operation which might lead to results over the coming months.

"I would not discount the chance that Opec may secure much better control of the situation than they have done now, but I wouldn't bank on it," the minister declared.

He had explained to Sheikh Yamani, in a general way, what action Norway might take in support of a concerted Opec drive to stabilise prices at a realistic level, if Opec managed to organise such a drive.

But he had not laid any specific plan of action before the Saudi Minister.

AP-DJ adds from Brioni: Sheikh Yamani said yesterday that he did not see any new accord on prices emerging from the current Opec meeting, but expects "another step" toward agreement on a new production-sharing pact.

Community blocks Japan's TV move

BY PAUL CHEESBRIGHT IN LUXEMBOURG

THE EUROPEAN Community has blocked attempts by Japan to dominate the next generation of television broadcasting by adopting its own standards for direct broadcasting by satellite and its onward transmission by cable.

Trade ministers meeting in Luxembourg decided that the European standard would be based on what is called the MAC packet. This allows a more evolutionary approach to the development of television broadcasting techniques than the high definition approach sponsored by Japan and accepted by the US.

Japan had sought last month at a meeting of the International Consultative Committee on Radio, bringing together world broadcasting organisations to have an international standard based on its own developing television technology.

Had this been accepted, the Japanese equipment industry would have had its pre-eminent international position enhanced.

The Community decision, by contrast, should benefit European companies such as Philips in the Netherlands, Thomson in France and Thorn-EMI in the UK. They are developing products in accordance with MAC packet standards and researching derivation of them.

The agreement among the trade ministers lasts until the end of 1991. It provides that European developments towards high definition television will spring from the MAC packet systems.

The text states that each Community country has the freedom to choose the television system most appropriate to its needs but that technically it must fit in with the MAC packet standards and that all legislative

regulatory measures will be taken to ensure that is the case.

The question still has to be debated by the European Parliament and, in the British case, must be accepted by the House of Commons.

Raymond Snoddy added: Mr. Tom Robson, director of engineering at the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which regulates commercial television in the UK said last night that the EEC decision was "certainly a step forward."

Mr. Robson, however, expressed disappointment that the EEC had backed the MAC family of standards rather than the G-MAC—the British system which can handle eight separate sound tracks.

France and West Germany are both backing a variant called D2-MAC which has only four sound tracks.

Greece switches its Turkish 'war' to EEC

BY ANDRIANA IERODIACONOU IN ATHENS

A FIERCE diplomatic war which has raged between Greece and Turkey since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 has transferred itself from Nato, of which both are members, to the European Community, which includes Greece and to which Turkey aspires.

According to officials in Athens, Dr. Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, is planning a forceful approach over the dispute at the EEC summit in The Hague later this week. At the heart of the matter lies the concerted effort made by the outgoing Dutch EEC Presidency to revive the Turkish-EEC Association Treaty, signed in 1963 but put on ice after the 1980 military coup in Turkey.

The Greeks have made no bones about their total opposition to any normalisation of Ankara's relations with the Community, which in their view is warranted neither by the human rights situation in Turkey, nor by the progress so far towards restoring democracy.

Turkey's military occupation of the northern part of Cyprus is also expected to be raised in The Hague, particularly in the light of the collapse this month of the latest UN peace initiative for the island, accompanied by rumours of possible fresh military unrest there.

Athens has in the first instance attached two conditions to its obligation to sign a supplementary protocol which would

fully integrate Greece into the Turkish-EEC Association treaty, an obligation assumed when it became a full member in 1981.

The first condition is that Turkey rescind legislation dating back to the early 1960s blocking the assets of Greek citizens in Istanbul, which Athens argues contravenes the non-discrimination clause of the Association treaty.

The second is that Greece be exempted for security reasons from any future free movement of Turkish workers in the Community, which is foreseen by the Association treaty to take place later this year.

This is an extension of an argument which Greece has advanced at length in Nato: that Turkey poses a military threat for the Greeks to the east. Dr. Papandreu said recently that Greece might consider seeking within the EEC a generally worded guarantee of its borders, a bid which was vetoed by Turkey within Nato.

Ankara has always vigorously denied Greek charges of harbouring expansionist designs in the region. Until recently Mr. Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, has pursued a policy of proffering an "olive branch" to the Greeks, proposing that the two countries sit down and resolve their disputes on a bilateral basis. Lately, however, a series of pugnacious statements have been directed at Greece by Mr. Ozal and other Turkish officials, which Athens



Mr Papandreu

believes could hardly have been better calculated to lend credibility to the Greek case.

These remarks, as reported in the press, have included reminders that Turkish patience has its limits, that it is a country of 52m compared with 9m Greeks, and that the Greek islands in the Aegean are cramping Ankara's rights in the region.

At the same time, chronic bilateral disputes in Nato have flared up, catching General Bernard Rogers, Nato Supreme Commander, in the crossfire. Gen Rogers last month accused the Turkish Foreign Ministry of orchestrating press criticism against him over alleged Nato wartime plans providing for

the despatch of forces to the Greek Aegean island of Lemnos, a perennial focus of dispute. Ankara has also challenged Greek air corridor arrangements over the Aegean before the international civil aviation organisation (ICAO).

Turkish officials are at pains to insist that Mr. Ozal has not abandoned his commitment to a peace dialogue with Greece. They admit, however, to a hardening of the Government, press and public mood in Turkey.

"Turkey has aspired to become part of Europe since the time of Kemal Ataturk (the 1920s founder of modern Turkey). Anybody blocking our path is cutting our roots in Europe. It is that raw nerve which Papandreu is hitting," one official said.

"If we are not admitted into the European club, then there might be a lot of popular pressure for Turkey to move in the other direction."

The Greeks leave little room for doubt. "Once the supplementary protocol is signed, then Greece will in turn assess a lot of things—the human rights situation in Turkey, Turkish policy over Cyprus, and Turkey's attitude to Greece," says Mr. Theodore Pangalos, Deputy Foreign Minister for EEC affairs. As in all areas where the Greeks and Turks find themselves face to face, the EEC arena promises to be just as turbulent.

EEC air fares decision next week

By Quentin Peel in Brussels

EEC member states have agreed in Brussels not to take any decisions on their policy over air fares and liberalisation of air routes before next week's key meeting of Community Transport Ministers.

The conclusion was reached at an emergency meeting of national transport officials called by the Dutch presidency of the EEC, intended to prevent any earlier deal being done at this week's meeting in Paris of the European Civil Aviation Conference (Ecac).

The conference involves senior transport officials from national capitals—both of the EEC and other European countries—who began informal talks yesterday to prepare the three-day session.

Officials in the European Commission and from member states such as Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands supporting greater liberalisation of civil aviation, had feared a decision by Ecac in favour of continuing a much more restrictive system.

Although the outcome of the conference is not legally binding an essentially protectionist decision could have been used at next week's EEC Transport Council to head off moves for greater liberalisation of air fares and capacity-sharing agreements.

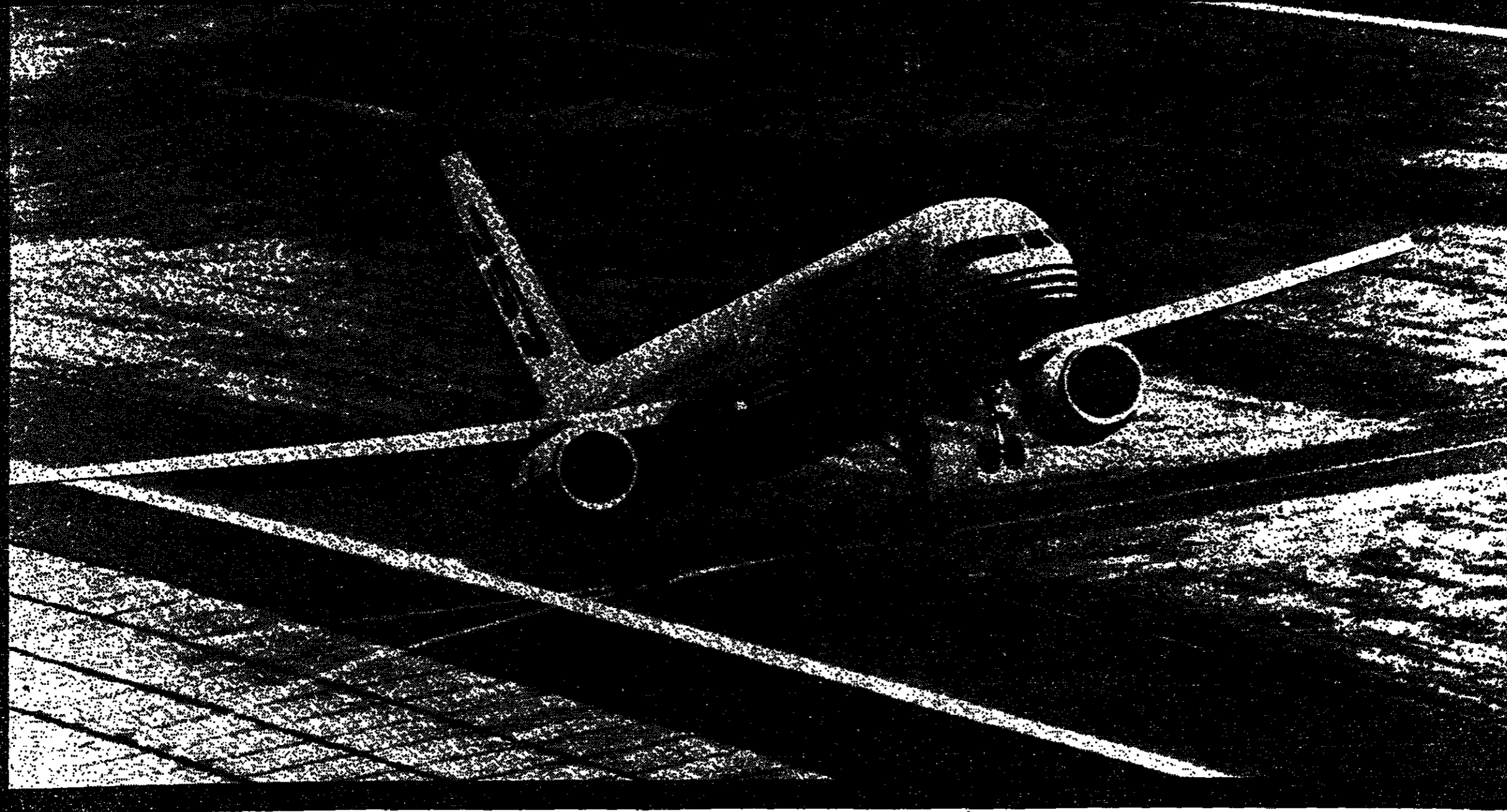
The Commission has proposed broad zones for the automatic approval of discount and "deep" discount air fares, whereas member states such as France and West Germany favour more restrictive price policies.

On capacity, the Commission wants no national airline to be protected unless its share of traffic falls below 25 per cent on a particular route, whereas the Franco-German plan would keep capacity at a maximum 4555 per cent split, thereafter changing only at a rate of one per cent per year.

Plans on the Ecac conference are similar to the Franco-German proposal put to the EEC Transport Ministers.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Johannesburg drops charges in treason trial

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE THIRTEEN month treason trial of leading anti-apartheid activists came to an abrupt end in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court yesterday when the state prosecutor dropped all charges against four black trade unionists.

The four men, all officials of the South African Allied Workers Union (SAWU) which is affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF) were the last of the original "Pietermaritzburg 16" who originally faced charges of treason and alternative charges under the internal security laws.

Charges against twelve of the original accused, all prominent members of the UDF including two of the organisation's presidents, Mr Archie Gumede and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, were dropped on December 9. This followed an admission by the prosecution that it had changed the dates on certain evidence brought before the court and the admission by a key prosecution witness that he had made "fundamental mistakes" in his evidence that could have misled the court.

The separate treason trial of 22 anti-apartheid activists at Delmas, 60 kms east of

Johannesburg which began on January 20 is continuing. The charges facing the "Delmas 22" include murder and seeking to topple the government by force. They rise out of their alleged involvement in the township riots in the Vaal triangle townships.

Meanwhile in the "independent" black homeland of Bophuthatswana the police announced that Brigadier Molope, who was in charge of a police unit which shot dead 11 black demonstrators in the squatter township of Winterfeld on March 26, was himself shot dead at the weekend.

Brigadier Molope was named as a respondent in three supreme court applications alleging police brutality.

Elsewhere the bureau for information reported that a black man had been burnt to death in the township of Tembisa and another stoned and then set alight in the KwaNdebele homeland.

On the economic front the Rand fell back again yesterday in nervous trading to close at 39.10 US cents. This was 60 cents below the opening and 1.50 cents below Friday's closing 40.60 cents.

ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

Lack of co-operation deplored

BY CHRIS SHERWELL IN MANILA

GOVERNMENTS in the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday deplored the six member groupings' lack of progress in economic co-operation, and called on next year's planned summit meeting to determine its future direction.

The criticisms, the most vocal in years, came at the annual meeting of Asean Foreign Ministers in Manila. They follow a major setback to the region's rapid economic growth caused by falling commodity prices intensified protectionism abroad, and a slowdown in foreign investment.

The attacks were surprising the six — Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei — previously promoted Asean as the

world's best example of regional co-operation, outside the European Community. Yesterday they frankly acknowledged that the record in intra-Asian trade and in joint industrial projects was disappointing. The principal achievement indeed, has been in maintaining an impressively consistent line against Vietnam's military occupation of neighbouring Kampuchea since 1978.

The change of mood was reflected yesterday in suggestions that the six should turn inward. Since Asean is a resource rich grouping embracing 290m people this would have significant implications for its training partners and allies.

Opening the two day meeting,

President Corason Aquino of the Philippines said it was "lamentable" that Asean continued to look outwards to revive progress. After 19 years she complained, the organisation should now be assessing the co-operation it had achieved "instead of endlessly discussing how to get it off the ground."

Tengku Ahmad Ritsaudeen, Malaysia's Foreign Minister also acknowledged that Asean had lost direction and momentum. Bitterly attacking the industrialised countries for being too self interested to help developing nations, he urged Asean to seek greater self-reliance.

The Thais said pointedly that Asean should be asking itself why so little had been achieved

in regional trade and joint industrial ventures. A "quantum leap" in co-operation was now needed.

In a more constructive move Singapore revived a proposal it first made in 1980 and suggested the Asean depart from its traditional consensus to promote greater flexibility in decision making. Members who agreed a course of action, Singapore said, should go ahead provided other members interests were not harmed.

But Indonesia—the giant of the region with 165m people—stepped in to counsel patience. Asean was founded on co-operation not integration, said Mr Mochtar Kusumastandhi, Foreign Minister, and its success came from not going too far.

Shultz urges Asia to oppose protectionism

MR GEORGE SHULTZ, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that Asian countries should continue to speak out against protectionist sentiment in the US, agencies report from Singapore.

"I believe the statements of concern are justified and they ought to keep making them and we ought to listen," Mr Shultz said before a meeting with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Prime Minister.

Mr Shultz's comments were

clearly aimed at the US Congress, which is considering legislation which could reduce imports from Asia. Mr Shultz added, however, that he had faith that President Ronald Reagan would win his battle against such measures.

On his way to the meeting in Manila of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), Mr Shultz met Mr Lee for more than two hours, after which US officials said the two

men had agreed on the need to keep the world trading system from being hindered by protectionism and had expressed concern about the rise of global terrorism.

The new French Government, led by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was strongly attacked yesterday for worsening the political problem in its Pacific colony of New Caledonia. Chris Sherwell reports from Manila.

The criticism came from Mr

Legu Vagi, the Foreign Minister of nearby Papua New Guinea, at a meeting of South East Asia foreign ministers in Manila.

Mr Vagi said New Caledonia had seen some progress in negotiations, over the past two years, between the Melanesian Kanaks and the Government in Paris. "But the situation has now been made worse by actions taken by the new Government of France which took office in April," he declared.

State of emergency imposed as Thai mob storms refinery

PREM TINSULANONDA, Thailand's Prime Minister, yesterday imposed a state of emergency on Phuket Island after mobs put an ore refinery, vehicles and a luxury hotel to the torch and stormed government buildings. Renter reports from Bangkok.

The riots on the popular international tourist island grew out of a protest by more than 100,000 people centred on the tantulum ore refinery there. Prem declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Phuket "to protect lives and property... for the security and safety of the Kingdom," Radio Thailand said.

The riot, one of the largest ever in Thailand, broke out after Industry Minister Chirayut Isaragkarn us Ayuthaya arrived on a fact-finding visit to assess the future of the refinery. Soon after arriving to jostling and jeering crowds of about 80,000, Chirayut's tour was halted out of fear for his safety.

Protesters reacted to the cancellation with rage, stoning first the Town Hall and then the Ministry of Industry where the Minister was thought to have sought refuge. "We have not been able to control the situation because we never expected any eruption of violence," a senior police officer said.

Provincial officials said opponents of the refinery included citizens worried about possible pollution and well-organised protesters manipu-



lated by political and commercial interests.

Thailand is the world's fourth biggest producer—after Brazil, Canada and Australia—of tantulum, which is a rare metal refined from tin slag and used in the aerospace, electronics and armaments industries.

Provincial officials, police and the local fire brigade stood by powerless as the SATT Thailand Tantulum Industry Corporation refinery was stormed and set alight. Provincial officials said last night that they had no assessment of the damage but that "more of the refinery has been burned down than is left standing."

Police said they had arrested 20 suspected rioters but that there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Australian industry sees gloomy outlook

AUSTRALIAN manufacturers predicted a gloomy economy for the rest of the year yesterday as opposition mounted to Prime Minister Bob Hawke's austerity programme within his own party and power service unions. Renter reports from Sydney.

The Confederation of Australian Industry (CAI) said its latest survey showed that business confidence and investment prospects were at their lowest level since Mr Hawke came to power three years ago.

A majority of manufacturing companies reported a significant drop in production for the first time in three years and the situation was expected to get worse, the survey said.

Mr Hawke received another setback when the left-dominated Victorian state branch of his Australian Labour Party (ALP) unanimously rejected his appeal to the labour movement for wage and other restraints as part of an austerity drive.

It was the first time that Mr Hawke's own rightwing faction had joined hands with the militant left wing to reject his economic plan, which he had promised to push through even at the risk of his own political future.

Inflation should improve but output and employment are seen weakening in Australia in local 1986-87 and ending June, the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research said.

Real gross domestic product, GDP, growth is forecast to fall to 1.5 per cent from about 4.1 per cent in 1985-86.

Australia tightens bank controls, Page 33

Fate of Israeli security chief in the balance

By Andrew Whitley in Tel Aviv

ISRAEL'S top political leadership has cleared its decks in anticipation of today's long expected announcement on the fate of Mr Avraham Shalom, the security chief accused of involvement in the deaths in captivity of two terrorists.

With the whole country agog to hear what course of action Mr Yosef Harish, the new Attorney General, is to pursue, usually important foreign affairs have been relegated to a distant second place in the Government's priority.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres last week quickly cancelled at the last moment a planned eight-day swing through Latin America.

The Shin Bet affair has also blighted the visit of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, to France, which is being reduced from three days to one, to allow him to return to Jerusalem by today.

A commission of inquiry of some sort is now, however, regarded as almost inevitable, though its terms of reference are still to be settled. Also unclear is whether Mr Shalom and possibly some of his other senior colleagues in the security service will step down in advance of the inquiry, as is being rumoured.

The inner Cabinet is united in its opposition to the dismissal of Mr Shalom, but a face-saving formula may be adopted to permit the security chief, who has held his post for six years, to resign.

Nakasone's not running but he is hardly standing still

BY CARLA RAPOPORT IN KOFU

MR Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday whirled into Kofu, a town tucked into the hills behind Mount Fuji, and acted just like he was running for a new term as premier—which he isn't. At least, not exactly.

Wearing immaculate white gloves and a large red-and-white ribbon on a grey suit, Mr Nakasone beseeched the modest crowd which had gathered in a damp Kofu car park: "Please let me continue with my work that I started three-and-a-half years ago... please help me to set the road for Japan toward the 21st century."

Officially, the upcoming July 3 election is all the seats in the 512-seat House of Representatives and half of the 252 seats in the Upper House. However, if Mr Nakasone can help his party to win at least a simple majority of 229 seats in the important lower house, he may be in a position to capture another term as party leader and premier. He has never admitted to this in public. A growing number of observers, however, say that Mr Nakasone's chances for holding his job are not strong, regardless of the election's outcome. Even so, Japan's premier appeared to be in outstanding form yesterday, bubbling with energy despite his hectic schedule.

Mr Nakasone generously complimented himself for his administration's achievements to date—a higher international profile, steps toward administrative reform, privatisation of government monopolies and a restructuring of the economy away from export-led growth. "I have asked the Japanese people for a

verdict—whether or not we can continue with these reforms," he said.

While avoiding sensitive topics like military spending, Mr Nakasone denied he was a hawk on defence. "Can you imagine a hawk when you look at my face?" he joked. Later, he said: "We must never send our dear children to a war again."

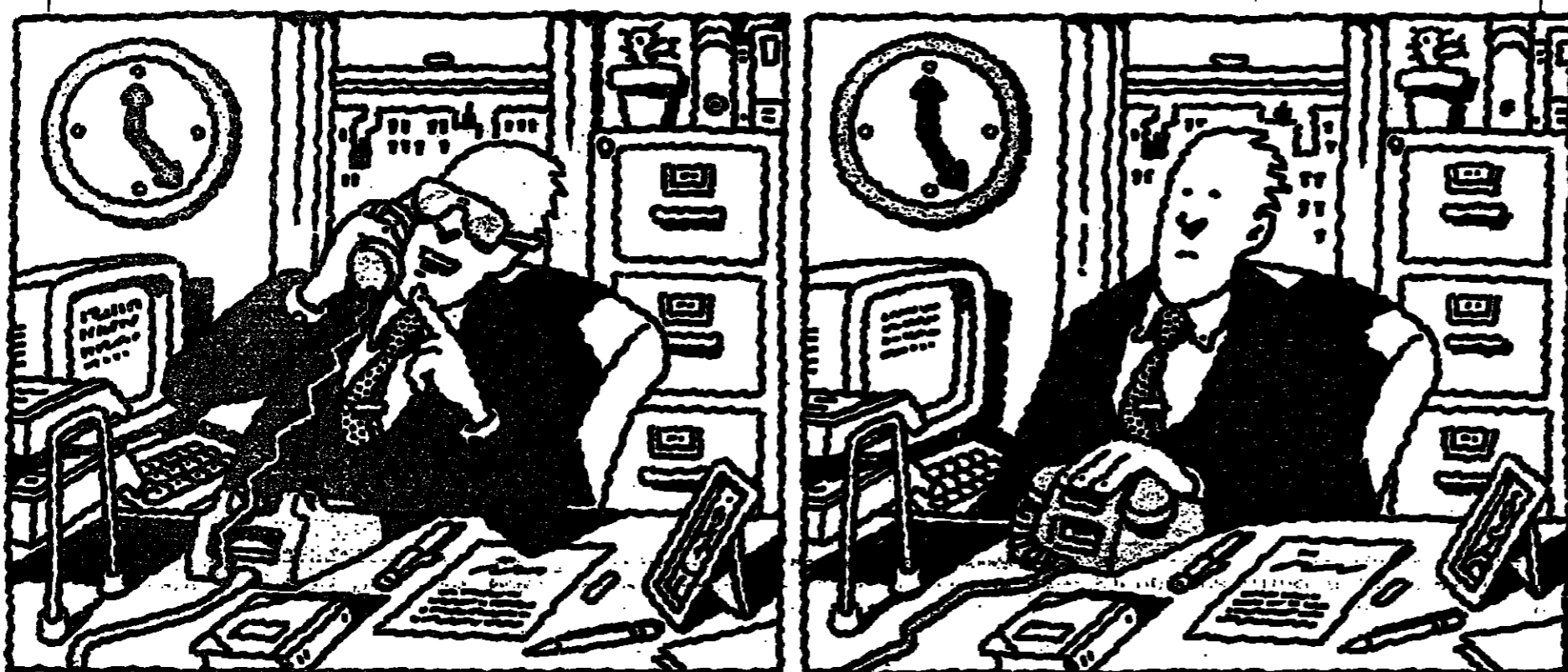
Like many other election campaigns in Japan, this one has been marked by the lack of debate over major economic or international issues. Indeed, candidates in sound trucks are now combing the city and countryside, repeating only their name, hypocritically, over and over again.

So far the only issue of the campaign has been tax reform. grumbled a major Tokyo daily yesterday morning stating: "If Japan ignores its role as a member of the international community and sets in a self-righteous manner, it will be digging its own grave."

The Premier, however, did not dwell on foreign relations, except to remind his listeners that he and Mr Reagan were good pals and caution voters that it was important to eliminate trade friction with the West "and gain a larger role in the international community as a result."

Currently, the ruling LDP holds 249 seats and needs to win 8 more to get a simple majority in the lower house.

The voters in Kofu, who listened quietly to their Premier, could provide few clues as to whether the LDP would achieve its goal. At the end of his speech, he cheered three times in unison... and went back to work.



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Slump in oil prices batters Trinidad's flagging economy

By Camute James recently in Port of Spain

CALYPSO SINGERS in Trinidad and Tobago have a remarkable ability to capture in music the political and social mood of the country. Not surprisingly, politicians of both the ruling and opposition parties have read much into the popularity of a recent hit song which runs "Captain, the ship is sinking... shall we abandon ship... Captain, you tell us what to do."

The ship has been holed by the slump in international prices for oil, on which turns 90 per cent of the economy of this Caribbean republic of 1.1m people. If the ship does go down, it is likely to take with it the 30-year hegemony of the People's National Movement (PNM) and the administration of Prime Minister George Chambers.

"It is difficult for anyone to predict the effects on national income of the movement in prices," said Mr Trevor Boop-singh, Permanent Secretary in the Energy Ministry. "No one knows where the prices will reach, and whether they will recover."

Oil industry officials and some bankers have offered estimates between \$240m and \$750m for this year. Trinidad and Tobago used earnings from petroleum to build financial reserves to \$1.6bn in 1983. The latest report from the central bank said reserves at the end of December had fallen to \$960m.

Production of oil fell from a peak of 230,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 1978 to 155,000 b/d in 1983, but it recovered to an average of 175,000 b/d last year, 7 per cent better than 1984. The economy declined by 2.5 per cent last year, following a 6.3 per cent rise in 1984. Local bankers say earlier forecasts of a 5 per cent fall this year now appear likely to be exceeded.

Mr Chambers was also Finance Minister and appeared to have found part of the answer to some of the problems last December, when he devalued the Trinidad and Tobago dollar by \$3.5 per cent to a rate of \$2.60 to the US dollar. The Government expected this to increase oil earnings by \$115m (\$277m) this year, following last year's earnings of \$985m.

"The expectations were then well founded," said one banker. "But the fall in oil prices since then suggests that by year-end this windfall in Trinidad and Tobago dollars will have been wiped out."

There are a few options for the country's one-legged economy and none of them is capable of easing the current pain, with natural gas reserves of 22 trillion cubic feet, or 100 cu ft, and with domestic usage at 700m cu ft last year, the Government has been establishing gas fired petrochemical industries producing ammonia, methanol, urea and steel.

Although this sector has been growing, manufacturing accounts overall for only 10 per cent of gross domestic product. The sugar industry, which has survived only because of government subsidies to cover losses of about \$650m over the past decade, is now aiming its production just for the domestic market.

By all indications, Mr Chambers may be forced to consider another devaluation before the end of the year—a possibility reinforced by statements from junior ministers that the Government had contemplated a depreciation as high as 40 per cent last December.

If the Government is forced into this, political considera-



Prime Minister Chambers—another devaluation possible

tions are likely to play a part in the timing and level of the devaluation. The Government's political stock, already on the decline, has suffered from the devaluation. A general election is due constitutionally in ten months. But Mr Chambers can bring this forward if he feels the need to lower the value of the currency again.

"The latest samplings do not show any fundamental departure from the findings of the last polls," said Dr. Stephen Ryan, a political analyst. Earlier polls had suggested that the opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) had 59 per cent of voters' support against 17 per cent for the ruling party.

PNM officials argue, however, that while there was "understandable frustration" at the economic situation, there was also a "clear acceptance" that it was not the Government's fault, but due to factors such as oil prices, over which it had no control.

In any election, the PNM will have on record its economic achievements over the past decade, and the fact that for the past 30 years it has been a Government and party which has brought political stability and economic growth to this country," said one official. But Mr A. N. R. Robinson, leader of the NAR, claims that the Government's fall in popularity is a result of its loss of credibility in dealing with repeated charges of corruption and extravagance in the use of public funds.

"The problem with oil represents a disaster for Government," Mr Robinson said. "It faces a really difficult situation and it will be a miracle if it survives a general election." Opposition parties, especially coalitions like the four-party NAR, have never fared well against the PNM. Political analyst Dr Ryan said the ruling party has survived because of the personality of Dr Eric Williams, the late Prime Minister and founder of the party, and also thanks to the economic benefits from high oil prices in the 1970s.

"The NAR has a good chance in the election. It will not collapse before then, although one must admit that, as in soccer there is the possibility of it kicking the ball into its own net," he said.

If he were elected, Mr Robinson said, he would implement a program of political and economic reform on clean government, public accountability, and diversification of the state's 60 per cent control of the economy through large state enterprises, and the promotion of agro-industry and tourism.

He admitted, however, that dealing with the fundamental issue of the impact of oil on the economy would not be easy.

AT & T deal rejected by unions

By Paul Taylor in New York

THE STRIKE by US telephone workers against American Telephone and Telegraph (AT & T) entered its fourth week after negotiators for six AT & T divisions failed to endorse a preliminary agreement reached a week ago between the company and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) representing 155,000 telephone employees.

That tentative agreement—provision for a national three-year contract including an 8 per cent wage rise over three years—was subject to approval by union negotiators at six AT & T operating divisions. Both sides had set a weekend deadline for agreement but agreed to continue negotiations past the deadline.

Negotiators representing 35,000 CWA members employed by AT & T's information systems divisions said the offer was unanimously rejected. Negotiators representing 75,000 CWA members in AT & T's long-distance telephone communications division also failed to reach agreement.

The main sticking point was apparently the provisions covering the technical, marketing and sales employees of the information systems division.

Senate likely to back tax reform

By Stewart Fleming in Washington

THE US Senate is expected today to approve the most sweeping reform of the US tax system in the post-war period. A conference committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate will then convene to produce a compromise version of the strikingly different tax reform packages they will have passed.

On Capitol Hill it is widely expected that the bill in the Senate could be approved unanimously on a roll call vote. This would be testimony to the political impetus driving tax reform and to the success of the strategy of resisting amendments to the draft bill which the finance committee produced in May.

The privilege of a seat on the conference committee is a prize which will be fought over not least because some of the many compromises which have to be reached are big ones whose resolution will affect the extent to which Democrats and Republicans can claim credit for the reform.

The House and Senate versions of the bill differ significantly, although both are designed to simplify the tax system, reduce wealthy tax payers' scope for using shelters to avoid paying tax and diminish the extent to which the tax code favours one form of business activity over another.

The House Bill is more populist, with four individual tax

rates ranging from 15 per cent for those on lower income to 38 per cent for the wealthy. The Senate bill has only two rates—15 per cent and 27 per cent—and has been criticised as too generous to the rich. The House Bill would put a bigger tax burden on companies, raising an estimated \$140bn (\$93bn) over five years while the Senate version would add about \$100bn to corporate America's tax bill.

Politically, there can be little doubt that the biggest winner on tax reform is President Ronald Reagan. He managed to steal an important issue from the Democrats by making it a top political priority after his re-election. It was the Demo-

crat Senator, Bill Bradley, who had been the staunchest advocate of a simplified tax code.

But the Democrats, with the November mid-term elections approaching, will fight bitterly in the conference committee to put their own stamp on the bill that finally emerges.

Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, said yesterday he backed a bill proposing no tax code changes in the next five years if fundamental tax reforms were passed in Congress. Reuter adds: "I think it would be a very, very salutary thing if we could stop tampering with the tax code, particularly if we get fundamental reform," he said in an NBC interview.

Inland Steel nears accord with union

By Paul Taylor in New York

INLAND STEEL, the fourth largest US steelmaker, and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) have reached tentative agreement on a three-year labour contract that would freeze wages and reduce benefits by 40 cents an hour. In exchange, Inland Steel's workforce would receive profit-sharing and improved seniority and pension schemes.

The proposed agreement, the fourth of six with large US steelmakers this year, must be approved by 14,000 steelworkers before the present contract expires on August 1. Among other big US steelmakers, LTV

and National Steel have already signed concessionary wage deals with the USWA. Bethlehem Steel has proposed an agreement with its 30,000 workers which calls for benefit cuts of around \$3 an hour in return for profit and stock-sharing plans.

Inland Steel's proposal would reduce hourly wage costs to around \$21.50, the same as LTV's new wage rates but below the \$22.21 agreed by National and the \$22.50 an hour proposed by Bethlehem.

The preliminary deal, which will first go before the union's executive board, appears to be a significant retreat for Inland

from its initial demands. The Chicago-based group had originally sought wage and benefit reductions totalling about \$2 an hour—a proposal firmly rejected by the USWA.

The contract with Inland, which is expected to win quick approval, would uphold the non-wage provisions of earlier agreements with the nation's steelmakers and reaffirm the union's goal of recovering concessions through profit-sharing schemes and stock. It would also reinforce the union's aim of keeping wage and benefit rates at the main steelmakers roughly level.

US dismisses Nicaraguan peace initiative

THE US Government yesterday dismissed a Nicaraguan offer to sign a regional peace treaty as a predictable move aimed at delaying congressional approval of \$100m in aid to US-backed rebels. AP reports from Washington.

The White House said the offer was a "nicely timed" effort to delay approval of the Administration's request for military aid to the Contra rebels opposing Nicaragua's Sandinista government. A vote on the aid is scheduled in the House on Wednesday.

Tobacco industry wins key liability case

By Paul Taylor in New York

US TOBACCO, a leading American snuff maker, won a key liability action when a federal court jury ruled that it was not responsible for the death of a 19-year-old boy who developed oral cancer after using its snuff from the age of 13. The \$147m (\$98m) damages suit was brought by the teenager's mother.

The court ruling is the third recent victory for the US tobacco industry in product liability suits.

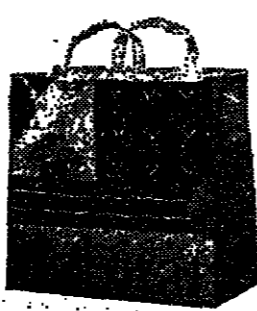
The case was widely considered one of the strongest ever brought against the industry, which has so far defended itself successfully against all the product liability suits it has faced.

Lawyers representing Mrs Ann Marsee tried to persuade the Oklahoma City jury that the company was negligent for not warning of possible health hazards, while US Tobacco argued that there was no conclusive evidence linking snuff to cancer.

The company, which dominates the smokeless tobacco market in the US and received about three quarters of its nearly \$500m a year in revenues from such products, is believed to have spent about \$15m on legal defence and political lobbying.

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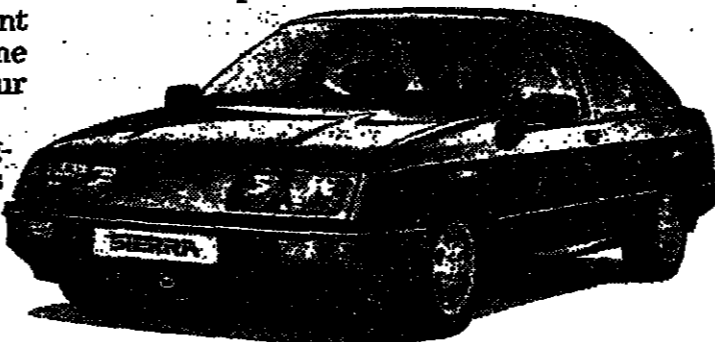
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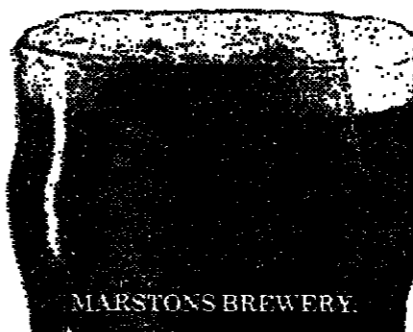
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Deepening economic crisis in Costa Rica

LESS THAN two months after former President Luis Alberto Monge declared Costa Rica in good financial health, this small Central American country finds itself sinking deeper into a financial quagmire, AP reports from San Jose.

The Christian Democrat administration of President Oscar Arias faces an estimated shortage of \$120m in foreign exchange, forcing delays in scheduled repayments of the nation's \$4.6bn (\$2.1bn) foreign debt, one of the largest per capita in the Third World.

Mr Fernando Naranjo, the Finance Minister, was due to go to Washington this week to seek emergency financial help from the US, pending a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund which would offer long-term relief.

As a condition for a \$60m loan, the IMF wants Costa Rica to reorganise its economy. It has told Costa Rica it must eliminate nearly 5,000 government jobs in this country of 2.5m people, and must reduce food subsidies from \$25m to \$8m a year, steps the previous administration was reluctant to take.

Lower subsidies would boost consumer prices, while eliminating government jobs would increase unemployment, officially pegged at about 6.7 per cent but estimated to be more than double that figure. Riding on the outcome of the

IMF negotiations is a \$40m loan from the World Bank and \$40m in loans and grants from the US Agency for International Development.

The World Bank and AID have approved the money in principle, but have held up disbursement until Costa Rica agrees to abide by the austerity demands of the monetary agency.

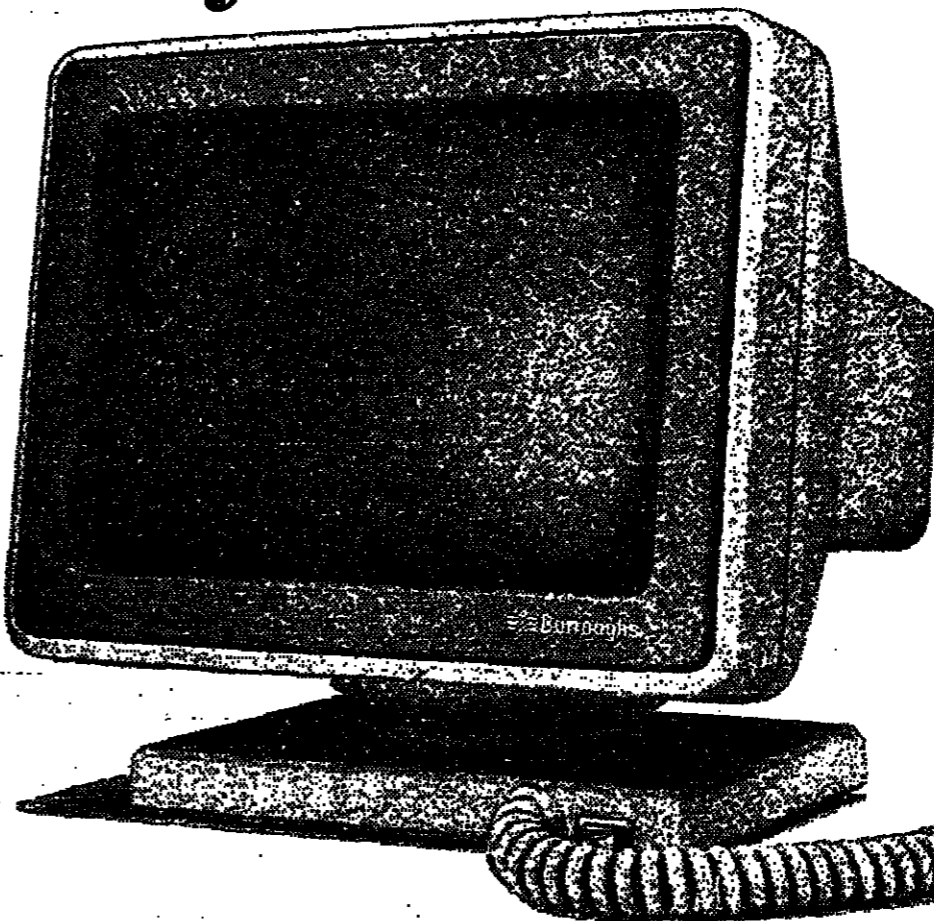
Commercial banks in the US and Europe, which hold more than \$3bn of Costa Rica's debt, have been reluctant to extend payments and adjust interest rates unless the country adheres to IMF standards. Mr Eduardo Lizano, president of Costa Rica's central bank, said he agreed in principle with the austerity demands, but not with the timetable for imposing them.

Mr Lizano and other government officials fear that rapid implementation of the programme would create big social problems in a country that has been struggling economically since 1981, when it was on the verge of bankruptcy.

The new administration has vowed to cut the government payroll and sell state-run businesses to private buyers, if they can be found. But the welfare system is seen as sacrosanct, a programme that has helped Costa Rica achieve a record of social tranquillity unknown to the rest of Central America.



Burroughs



Gap Government to press for use of unleaded petrol

BY JOHN GRIFFITH

THE UK Government will use compulsion if necessary to ensure that a network of petrol stations offering unleaded petrol is in operation next year, the Department of the Environment said yesterday.

It presented provisions for "at least a marginal" network of unleaded petrol stations as being part of a package to encourage the introduction of unleaded petrol well ahead of an EEC target date of 1993.

But both the petroleum and motor industries, those most closely affected, made clear last night that they had largely anticipated the measures and that they would have

little practical effect on actions already under way.

Presuming the "marginal" network is set up next year, it will still leave the UK behind some other European countries such as West Germany, Austria and Switzerland, where unleaded petrol is already widely available.

It has long been accepted that lead in petrol is a health hazard. An EEC directive, inspired by the UK, was adopted last year to require unleaded petrol to be generally available throughout the Community by October 1990 at the latest.

It is linked to another directive

requiring various categories of new cars to use unleaded petrol starting in October 1988. This directive, which embraces all pollution emission by cars, has yet to be adopted because of reservations by Denmark and Greece.

The Department of the Environment said that, as soon as it was, the UK would implement it on the earliest specified dates.

Both Ford and Austin Rover said that their new cars would be capable of running on unleaded fuel by those dates. "It is what everyone has been planning for," said Austin Rover.

Weaker economic growth indicated

By George Graham

FURTHER cautious signals on the direction of the British economy emerged yesterday as the Government's Central Statistical Office (CSO) published its cyclical indicators which suggest weaker economic growth in store.

The cyclical indicators have for some years presented only confusing signals. But the CSO said yesterday that the decline in its shorter leading index, which is meant to indicate turning points in the economy about six months in advance, was becoming more firmly based.

The CSO said, however, that the two leading indices did not show whether the present pattern of weaker economic growth would become established or was likely to be only a short-term development.

The latest Confederation of British Industry survey, also published yesterday, presented a similarly cautious picture of the UK's economic prospects. But Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said last week that there was every reason to believe the lull in activity would soon come to an end.

The coincident and lagging indices are confirming a flattening in the economy over recent months. The longer leading indicator, which is meant to indicate economic turning points about a year in advance, showed a slight decline.

Cyclical indicators do not measure absolute levels of economic activity but are intended to capture changes in trend. However, because many of the components are themselves indicators of past economic activity, the indices often simply confirm the messages of already published economic statistics.

Call for expansionist strategy, Page 8

LABOUR PARTY TO CONSIDER NOVEL PROPOSALS

State ownership policy planned

BY DAVID THOMAS, LABOUR STAFF

THE OPPOSITION Labour Party is considering a report which backs a considerable programme of public ownership by a future Labour government.

The report, called Social Ownership - a Vision for the 1990s, was produced by a working party chaired by Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman. It will be considered by the party's national executive next month and then go before the annual conference in the autumn.

The report, still in draft form but near completion, explicitly reaffirms Labour's Clause Four, the clause in Labour's constitution which backs public ownership.

At the same time, it makes clear that Labour does not support nationalisation of the old kind and it produces the most radical reconsideration of public ownership from within the Labour movement since the post-war nationalisations under the Attlee administration.

Many of the novel proposals in the report are designed to meet the arguments given prominence by the Conservative Government's privatisation programme that public ownership has been bad for consumers and that employees have

lacked a real stake in publicly owned industries.

The report suggests that immediately on taking office, a Labour gov-

ernment should use whatever means are open to it, such as minority shareholdings and regulatory powers, to influence the behaviour of companies to be taken back into public ownership.

It also contains explicit commitments to bring back into public ownership British Telecom, British Gas, the water authorities and defence-related industries such as the Royal Dockyards and the Royal Ordnance arms and munitions factories.

It suggests that the Government would have to re-acquire the vast majority, if not all, of the shares in a company such as British Telecom to exercise effective control.

Shareholdings held by non-employees in privatised companies to be taken back into public ownership would be converted into non-voting bonds. Labour is considering a range of options for how to do this.

Under the report's proposals, Labour would extend the shareholdings which employees have been given through privatisation.

Labour is likely to set up consumer bodies with powers to influence the services of publicly owned industries, to give rights to a specified level of service and to allow consumers to elect representatives to national boards.

Gas flotation, Page 10

Losses in union members slow

By Our Labour Editor

THE FALL in UK trade union membership, mainly due to the impact of unemployment, is slowing markedly, according to figures given to Trades Union Congress (TUC) leaders yesterday. But the level of unionisation in Britain is still falling.

The TUC's "inner cabinet" the finance and general purposes committee, was told yesterday that TUC affiliated membership fell in the year to end-1985 by 274,702 - a drop of 2.5 per cent - to 9,580,502.

This is a much lower decrease than in recent years. There have been annual falls of about 1m since the turn of the decade. Union leaders are likely at tomorrow's TUC general council to proclaim this as significant for UK trade unionism's future health.

The figure, however, does represent a further fall in the unionisation level - TUC members as a proportion of employees in employment.

Offer to underwriters in Fidentia settlement

BY JOHN MOORE

ONE THOUSAND underwriting members of the Lloyd's London insurance market are being offered a significant part of £6.25m of their funds which disappeared.

Settlement in a dispute over the funds has been gained after Lloyd's launched disciplinary proceedings against Mr Raymond Brooks and Mr Terence Dooley, two founders of the Brooks & Dooley underwriting agency which managed the affairs of the underwriting members.

Lloyd's found that Mr Brooks and Mr Dooley had arranged business with the Fidentia Marine Insurance Company of Bermuda, which they both controlled. The schemes were designed to provide financial benefit to the Fidentia at the expense of the underwriting members whose affairs the two men supervised.

Lloyd's established that Fidentia gained a net £6.2m through business channelled to it from Lloyd's insurance syndicates into which the underwriting members were

grouped. No disclosure of the conflict of interest was made to the members. Mr Raymond Brooks was expelled from Lloyd's.

After delicate negotiations by representatives of the underwriting members with Mr Brooks, the underwriting members are to receive £2m. The overall package could be rather more as Fidentia has already paid out insurance claims which exceed premiums of £1.4m and a further £1.4m is due to be paid out to meet insurance claims in the normal course of trading.

Mr Brooks, now based in Milan, has been assisting in the recovery of the money and is to receive £200,000 after the underwriting members have received \$800,000 and another \$200,000 share of insurance recoveries.

An offer has been made by the underwriting members' representatives for the payment across of the funds and requires up to 90 per cent acceptance by July 25.

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2. Are you sure your manager can still advise with true independence, without corporate conflict? ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Has your last 3 years performance been exceptional and not just par for the course? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Can your manager concentrate properly on your pension or is he trying to handle too many other accounts? ☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Have you personal day-to-day contact with senior management? ☐ YES ☐ NO
6. Does your manager spend his time making investment decisions and not chasing 'admin'? ☐ YES ☐ NO
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UK NEWS

Britain raises share of world arms sales

BY DAVID BUCHAN

BRITAIN INCREASED its share of world arms export market from 7 per cent in 1984 to 9 per cent last year with sales totalling nearly £3bn, Mr George Younger, the secretary of state for defence, said yesterday. He was opening what he called the UK's "major shopwindow" to world arms buyers, the British Army Equipment Exhibition (BAEE) 86.

The performance of the UK defence industry in this competitive market was outstanding, he said. Britain ranked fourth in the world arms sales league, behind the US, the Soviet Union and France. Representatives from 75 countries are expected to attend BAEE 86, which will include a firepower and mobility demonstration on tank ranges in the South of England on Thursday.

But, as expected, Mr Younger scrapped what had originally been expected to be the weak major domestic contract announcement. This was the award to Royal Ordnance, the state arms manufacturer, of a £100m contract for 80 Challenger tanks. After last week's postponement of the privatisation of Royal Ordnance, this contract looks likely to go out to competitive tender between Royal Ordnance and Vickers.

The army had "a funded, operational requirement" for an additional, seventh regiment of Challenger tanks, according to General Sir Richard Vincent, the Master General of the Ordnance.

Competitive tendering, a new Ministry of Defence general priority that was at odds with the per-

ceived need to increase Royal Ordnance's order book ahead of stock market flotation, should not cause undue delays, Gen Vincent said. But no firm decision had been taken.

Seeking to raise staff morale dented by the privatisation postponement, Mr Roger Pinnington, Royal Ordnance's chief executive, said yesterday that he was confident of winning the new Challenger tank order, if it was opened to competition.

So speculation about the closure of Royal Ordnance's Leeds factory after it completed Challengers for the army's fifth and sixth tank regiments was "irrelevant," he said.

The newly-privatised Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering also took advantage of the Aldershot exhibition to announce that it would

be seeking a Stock Exchange listing towards the end of next month, under the name of VSEL (to distinguish it from Vickers Plc) and to unveil a new self-propelled 155mm Howitzer, the AS 90. It hopes that this will compete for orders with and even possibly replace, the troubled SP 70 gun which Britain is building with West Germany and Italy.

Gen Vincent admitted that because of automatic ammunition handling problems, the tri-national SP 70 project was behind schedule and over budget, and the three countries' national armaments directors were considering getting other designs built as prototypes to give them a choice. The new VSEL gun might be appraised for possible purchase in this way, he suggested.

Treasury faces TUC pressure for an expansionist strategy

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR EDITOR

TRADES UNION Congress (TUC) leaders will today press the Treasury for an expansionist economic strategy in the first attempt the unions have ever mounted to influence directly public spending while the annual cycle of spending decisions is taking place.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, and Mr Rodney Bickers, chairman of the TUC's economic committee, will lead a team to meet Mr John MacGregor, chief secretary to the Treasury. The meeting is aimed by the TUC to have an impact on the Public Expenditure Survey Committee (Pesc) planning for spending in the coming year.

A TUC policy paper to be put to the Treasury today calls for a "fundamental reappraisal" of the way public spending decisions are made. It seeks a form of social audit to complement the industrial audit of the TUC's forthcoming economic review.

The TUC says that "the Government's current debate between tax cuts or more public spending should be resolved in favour of more public spending", which would have a significant and immediate effect on economic growth, while tax cuts could have little effect and would cause further social inequalities.

It argues that the Government should abandon the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and replace it with a Medium Term Employment Strategy, which would progressively reflate demand, cutting unemployment and increasing public spending.

A programme to boost employment by 1m jobs over two years would increase public spending by about £4bn in the first year and by £3.8bn in the second.

About 35 per cent of the jobs would come from public investment, 27 per cent from public services, 28 per cent from special employment measures and the remainder from reductions in working time.

Costs of this strategy would be met by diverting resources from such areas as defence spending, from raising taxes - including those on high income earners - and increasing the level of government borrowing.

● TUC and Labour Party leaders are reaching broad agreement, with

few dissensions, on a policy statement on future employment legislation which will be put to the two organisations' autumn annual conferences.

Strong statements of support for the joint document, People at Work: New Rights, New Responsibilities, came yesterday at the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee from almost all senior figures on both sides of the labour movement. Notable exceptions were Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer, Labour's leading left-wingers.

Instead of the proposed statement, they wanted more simply a complete repeal of the Conservative Government's legislation - in effect returning employment law to its pre-1979 position.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's leader, said that the paper provided a balance between trade union rights and responsibilities, and would make sure that employment law would not become the playing field of the courts or the employers.

For the unions, Mr Willis acknowledged that the document - which includes provision for balloting in unions, among other changes - marked a shift in direction for the unions. Such a change was not easy to make, but it reflected demands from union members.

David Thomas writes: There could be a deal by the end of the year which would bring a reduction in the 39-hour working week in the engineering industry, a senior union leader said yesterday.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, was speaking on the eve of the annual conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions which opens in Llandudno, Wales today.

There have been long-running negotiations between the unions and the Engineering Employers' Federation over the unions' claim for a shorter working week and the employers' counter-proposals for more flexible working.

Referring to the most recent round of pay negotiations, Mr Jordan said that there was now "no reason for pessimism." He added: "Our hopes are high. We are prepared for mutual concessions but we are not exchanging anything for jobs."

Conference centre built for £63m to be opened

BY FIONA THOMPSON

THE GOVERNMENT'S £63m conference centre in central London will be formally opened by the Queen today.

The Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, opposite Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, has been four years in the making and at least double that in the planning.

It has not been without controversy and was given the go-ahead only after a political row over whether it should be a private sector or state-run venture.

The Property Services Agency (PSA), which manages the Government's £10bn property estate, will run the centre. Designed by architects Powell, Moya and Partners, it has 330,000 sq ft of space on 10 levels and can cater for 2,000 people in the main conference hall.

Although designed primarily for international government meetings, the centre is also available for private hire. One conference suite, the Mountbatten, with capacity for 200 in round-table format, will be reserved for government use. The other rooms will be available for government or private hire.

First mooted by the Labour Government in 1978, the centre was then estimated to cost £15.25m. This had risen to £38.2m in 1982 when Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet decided to go ahead with the project.

A written parliamentary answer in November 1983 put the figure at £44m, one in January of this year stated £55.7m, and the current estimate is £62.93m.

In answer to Whitehall speculation that the venture could prove a major loss-maker, Mr Chris Edwards, PSA's conference business manager, claims there is not a single pure conference centre worldwide that makes a profit. He is optimistic about the centre's prospects.

"Two years ago we estimated we would still be making a substantial loss four years after opening. Now we aim to be breaking even or with a much reduced loss in two years' time."

The PSA's hiring charges are, Mr Edwards says, "competitive market rates, at the top end of the market, which will help us reduce the operating deficit." He says that the rates are commensurate with the facilities. These include a communications network with a system for handling 12 channels of simultaneous translation, closed circuit television that can broadcast to 150 monitor screens throughout the building, and radio and television studios.

The Churchill Auditorium, which will seat up to 600, rents at £3,000 for an 8.30am to 6pm day. The Fleming Room and Whittle Room can be linked to provide seating for 1,200 delegates at a cost of £4,800.

Kellogg plans biggest investment in UK

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES

KELLOGG, the world's leading breakfast cereal maker, is to spend more than £80m on re-equipping and extending its main UK factory at Trafford Park, Manchester.

The decision represents the biggest investment the Michigan-based company has made in the UK since it set up in Manchester in 1938, and the most important development since it started building its works in Wrexham, North Wales, in 1978.

While providing space for new products and more modern equipment, the investment will not necessarily lead to more job vacancies. The company said yesterday that it had already told its UK workforce of about 2,300 to expect a gradual reduction in jobs over the next few years through wastage and voluntary redundancies.

Britain represents one of Kellogg's most successful overseas ventures. UK annual consumption of ready-to-eat cereals is already high-

er than in the US at more than 6.5 kg a head compared with just over 4 kg. Sales are increasing steadily as the company plays heavily in its advertising on the "healthy" fibre and nutritional content of its products.

The company has almost 60 per cent of the British market compared with 30 per cent in the US. Kellogg also has a 50 per cent share in West Germany and France and 65 per cent in Italy, although it has much to do to change eating habits in continental Europe. The average West German, for example, eats less than 500 grams of cereal a year.

Manchester and Wrexham represent an important European base for Kellogg. They are used mainly to supply the British and Irish markets, and although the company has factories on the Continent, it uses its UK facilities as a source of new products for testing in the wider EEC market before installing new plant in continental Europe.

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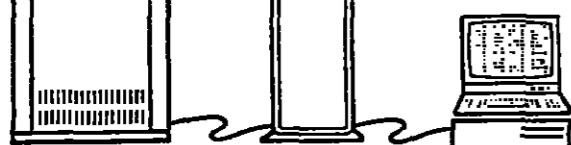
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UK NEWS

Gas sell-off set to dwarf other state asset sales

BY LUCY KELLAWAY

THE PRIVATISATION of British Gas in November is likely to raise, in one swoop on the market, about as much as the £5bn which the Government achieved in the first six years of its programme of state asset sales.

British Gas could be worth more than British Telecom, Cable & Wireless, Jaguar, Britoil and all the others put together.

The sale of British Gas is expected to put the Government well on the way to meeting its ambitious privatisation targets, which require it to raise £14.25bn in the three years up to 1989-90.

British Gas, which is estimated to be worth £5bn, will fill more than half of that quota, with payment staggered over the three financial years. A partly paid sale of shares could raise between £5bn and £5.5bn, with a further £2.5bn to be recovered as British Gas repays the debt created at the time of flotation.

A successful flotation of British Gas is therefore of great importance to the Government in view of its recent difficulties over plans to sell off British Airways and the Royal Ordnance arms and munitions factories, and arguments over the best way to privatise the water authorities.

Moreover, the scale and the substance of the privatisation programme is creating unease in the City of London. Some are worried that the planned weight of government issues may have a depressing effect on the whole market.

Others doubt the attractions of the companies up for sale. They argue that in order to attract a wide enough interest to absorb such huge issues, the prices will have to be set artificially low.

"We are now getting down to the nitty gritty," says Mr Nicholas Knight of stockbrokers James Capel. He argues that, unlike Jaguar, Cable & Wireless or Amersham International, there is no glamour involved in these issues. "British Gas is a big boring energy utility, whereas at least British Telecom had high-tech bits to get excited about."

If the Government is to meet its targets, it must hurry. Privatising mighty monopolies just before a general election will be difficult, with the Labour Party promising a swift renationalisation drive, or threatening to overhaul legislation regulating private monopolies.

One consequence of this, according to some observers, is that the Government is selling, even the largest companies in one slice - instead of in a series of tranches, as with earlier large issues - to make

PRIVATISATIONS SINCE 1979			
Company	Date	Means of sale	Proceeds £m
British Aerospace	Feb 1981	offer 51.5%	43
Cable & Wireless	Oct 1981	offer 49.4%	182
Amersham Int'l	Feb 1982	offer 100%	5
National Freight	Feb 1982	management buy-out	50
British	Nov 1982	tender 51%	627
Associated Brit Ports	Feb 1983	offer 51.5%	46
International Aeradio	Mar 1983	private sale	80
BN Hotels	Mar 1983	private sale	51
Cable & Wireless	Mar 1983	tender 27.9%	283
Brit Gas Overseas			
Oil (Wylch Farm)	May 1984	private sale	82
Associated Brit Ports	Apr 1984	tender 48.5%	51
Enterprise Oil	Jan 1984	tender 100%	330
Sealink	Jul 1984	private sale	66
Jaguar	Jul 1984	offer 100%	297
British Telecom	Nov 1984	offer 50.2%	3,916
British Aerospace	Apr 1985	offer 49.4%	350
Britoil	Jul 1985	offer 48.5%	430
Cable & Wireless	Dec 1985	offer 23.1%	600
Planned privatisations			
British Gas	Nov 1986	offer 100%	5,000-6,000
Short Bros	1986-87	?	50
BA - various subs	1986-87	?	300-500
Rolls-Royce	early 1987	?	400
Brit Airways Authority	early 1987	?	1,000
Thames Water	late 1987	?	1,000
Other water authorities	1987-88	?	+1,500?
British Airways	1987-88	?	1,000

Other possible sales: remaining stake in BP, 49.8% stake in British Telecom, electricity industry.

it harder for a future Labour Government to reverse the process.

So far, it has done well out of selling its stake gradually. A tendency to underprice the first slice combined with a rising market has meant that in most cases (with the spectacular exception of British) later tranches have been sold at much higher prices.

This would not be the case in a bear market - although if the market really did turn sour it might not be possible to proceed with the sales at all.

Even against an acquiescent market background, there have been no shortage of reasons for delays and cancellations. British Airways should have made its passage into private hands last year, but was prevented by lawsuits surrounding the collapse of Laker Airways. A second launch was planned for this summer but has been postponed because of US anti-trust legislation.

The Government is now trying to squash this sale into the early part of next year, although it may prove difficult to find it a space among the other issues. The delay may have cost a good deal of air traffic in starting to turn-down and the company is short of cash and is beginning to look less attractive as an investment.

Royal Ordnance, which was due to be privatised in the middle of next month, had its plans overturned at the last minute. It was decided last week, after nearly 18 months' effort in preparing for privatisation, that it was still not in a strong enough commercial position to make a successful flotation. The Government is expected to try to sell the factories, which might have fetched £150m on the stock market, in a series of private sales.

The privatisation of the water authorities is likely to be the most difficult yet. The Labour Party has committed itself to fight vigorously the water bill due to come before Parliament in the autumn. Any delay in the legislation could be fatal.

Even if many of the planned issues are put on ice, the Government will be able to meet its financial targets through the sales of its remaining stakes in British Telecom and BP, which are now worth £8.5bn and £2.5bn respectively.

In the longer term, the Government would almost certainly need to privatise the electricity industry if it were to keep to the target suggested in its latest medium-term financial strategy of raising £47bn a year for the rest of the decade. Its assets could be worth about £30bn.



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3 - management for the New City - defined

bang, *bang*, *n.* a heavy blow; explosion. **Big Bang**, the effect of deregulation in the City, resulting in a radical new environment which requires new strategies and trading policies.

boundaries, *bound'ar'iz*, *n.* these will be broken down between functions, e.g. commercial and investment banking, brokerage.

barriers, *bar'ri-ers*, *n.* the divisions of labour in the financial trading markets are well defined. — **barrier cream**, present management skills controlling and protecting current trading strategies work effectively within these markets; at least, for the time being.

beware, *bi-wā'*, *vi.* take heed: as organisations begin to face new markets, products, and a vastly increased volume of trading, current methods of management and organisation are not enough.

bewilderment, *bi-wil'dər'mənt*, *n.* the likely effect on management faced with the complexities and magnitude of the pace of change as the New City takes shape.

breakdown, *brāk'daun*, *n.* failure, due to the present level of management skills — resulting in an inability to grasp the value of opportunities, allocate resources and control the associated risks.

because, *bi-kōz*, *conj.* many City managers have not been trained to manage and motivate, unlike their counterparts in industry.

base, *bās*, *n.* specialist skills will no longer be sufficient. A wider **base of skills** will be required of managers to evaluate opportunities, devise clear operational procedures and implement them.

big, *big*, *adj.* the scale of change needed. — **big winners**, those organisations which are most successful in harnessing management talents in order to adopt a new approach.

below, *bi-lō*, *prep.* a new approach may demand changes in organisation structure, e.g. decentralisation — letting decisions take place lower down the line to speed up customer response.

bonus, *bōn'us*, *n.* a new approach requires that those receiving high rewards be assessed directly against performance, in relation to both short-term targets and longer-term risks borne by employers.

benefit, *ben'i-fit*, *n.* a new approach must provide managers with effective management information systems — and training programmes designed to provide the skills required for the new environment.

beyond, *bi-yōnd*, *prep.* a new corporate vision needs to be communicated by senior executives to managers — and beyond them to the rest of the staff and the market at large.

build, *bild*, *vt.* to create the new managers and make them work successfully requires a multi-disciplinary approach. — **master builders**, Coopers & Lybrand's specialist groups.

bespoke, *bi-spōk*, *adj.* these groups are geared to the demands of the New City with the expertise to arrive at tailor-made solutions for their clients.

bring together, *bring to-gedh'er*, *vt.* to link systems: Coopers & Lybrand's approach. Marketing and organisation skills, training and human resource management, systems and accounting.

businessmen, *bi'nis-men*, *n.* many of Coopers & Lybrand's consultants are drawn directly from banks, building societies, securities houses, insurance companies and fund management organisations — providing an impressive source of knowledge.

bottom-line, *bōt'm-līn*, *n.* creative solutions, resulting from their rolling up their sleeves and working with client staff to implement recommendations practically.

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THE ARTS

London Galleries/William Packer

Parallel paths to manifest excellence

What a relief it is, to say nothing of the pleasure, to come upon the current work of artists who are neither young nor old, neither especially famous nor secure in reputation nor particularly obscure; not at all old-fashioned and set in what they do and not fiercely engaged and avant-garde; but simply in mid-career and full possession of mature authority and power. There are not special pleas to enter, no issues to raise other than the manifest excellence of the work.

Michael Andrews (at Anthony d'Offay, 23 Dering Street, W1, until July 4) and Victor Willing (at the Whitechapel Gallery until July 20) are of an age, both born in 1929, and they were at the Slade together in the early 1950s. Even now their work, each in its various and subtle way, declares something of the common schooling for the Slade, rather more than most such schools, seems to leave an indelible, if faded, mark upon its products. Both these artists enjoyed some early notice as the coming men of their generation, young painters worth following.

But their subsequent careers have taken separate courses and such similarities need not be pushed too far. Andrews has been the steadier and more consistent development, though the appearance is deceptive, for a naturally slow working practice, pursued more on the largest scale, has tended to stretch things out a bit. With that work being often committed long before it leaves the easel, and with the need to show it therefore somewhat less than pressing, the interval between his exhibitions has always been extended.

In such circumstances it is a natural temptation, for artist and dealer alike, when at last enough of it has come together, to show the work in a related and coherent batch. The effect is to emphasise subject-matter at the expense of more formal and technical considerations and perhaps to emphasise changes that are more apparent than real. This is only Andrews' fifth public solo show since 1958 — not counting his large Arts Council retrospective of 1980 — and his third with d'Offay in 12 years.



Valley of the Winds, Katatjuta (The Olgas), by Michael Andrews, at Anthony d'Offay Gallery

It is devoted entirely to the paintings and water colour studies he has made of the extraordinary Ayer's Rock and the nearby group of lesser hills, the Olgas, in central Australia, which he first visited just under 3 years ago. Five huge paintings dominate the gallery, with the studies together at the rear, and the whole lot presents us with images of astonishing force. It is hardly surprising that this should be so with a canvas of 14 feet by eight, for example, but rather more so that studies only a few inches in extent should convey the vast spaces of the desert and the

immense presence of the Rock. But the interest and visual excitement of the imagery itself, with the ambiguous hints it carries of a positively human, sometimes specifically female, physically, are only half the story, for as we move in closer to these canvases we begin to be more intrigued by what is happening on their surface. It is by the disarmingly deft control of his material, that flick of the wrist and eye that is a very English way of showing off, at once modest and bravura, that Andrews is most consistent.

Acrylic paint sweeps across

the canvas in a rich flood, throwing down a variegated and colourful sediment as it is teased into shape and space; its chance qualities modified and exploited, drawn and worked into before it dries. In the past Andrews has made much use of secondary material: for his reference, working up figures, landscapes, buildings and gardens from photographs, and with photo-realism all the rage and his own spray-gun cocked off at once modest and bravura, that Andrews is most consistent.

But Andrews has never been a realist, photo or otherwise, in any passive and accepting way,

concerned merely to restate the given image. Always much freer in the act of painting than at times he has appeared, taking the calculated risk even within the constraints of spray and stencil, he is at heart a true expressionist, if of a peculiarly very, civilised and most accomplished sort. It is always the mark that fires the imagination, not the image. He has done nothing better than these new paintings.

Victor Willing's course has been the more erratic. Indeed, though married to a painter, Paula Rego, who has won a

considerable reputation for herself, he virtually gave up painting when he went to live with her in Portugal and it was not to be for nearly 20 years, after he returned to live in England in 1974, that he began to work seriously again.

After such an interval we should hardly expect to discover any superficial continuity in the work, and so it is with this retrospective at the Whitechapel. Willing has been working these 10 years past with a wonderful, sometimes almost desperate energy, which has supplied the mass of the work on show: huge canvases upon huge canvases, all with its very clear character and consistency of preoccupation. And yet the small group of early work from his time at the Slade and a little after, that begins the show, while fascinating in itself, is more so for the presence of what was to come so much later.

Again it is form rather than image that gives us the clue. Willing's imagery in all this later work is the stuff of dream if not quite of nightmare — fantastical, hallucinatory, surreal. There are no figures to engage us by association, only the bizarre furniture of the dream set out as on a stage for some timeless drama, perhaps to occupy Vladimir and Estragon in one of their more speculative moments.

Always there is a sense of nearness and enclosure, front-of-stage, with walls and screens to shut off the distance. A boat in full sail sits in the middle of a green room; a basic tent

There is so much of life and art in Verdi's *Falstaff* that its true character can prove elusive in the opera house, as indelible as the tunes that keep haunting the score. The new Geneva production is one of the most successful I have seen, partly because the stage director Luigi Proietti and his designer Quirino Conti remain faithful to Verdi's music, and partly because the casting above the same air that distinguished almost every other production at the Grand Théâtre this season.

Proietti — one of Italy's more reputable Shakespearean actors — had only two previous opera productions to his name, but the maturity, understanding and coherence which this staging breathed would put to shame many a more established opera producer. The visual atmosphere chosen by Proietti and Conti is loosely that of Rembrandt and Vermeer, but give or take a little Italian favour, particularly in the exquisite outdoor terrace setting for the second scene, you could mistake any of the stage sets for late Tudor England in mid-summer. What this approach offers is a quality of colour and simplicity, a sympathetic background for the pulse of ensemble and the projection of human foibles.

The production does not make the mistake of treating *Falstaff* as a burlesque or a farce. Ruggiero Raimondi deserves much of the credit. It is Raimondi's debut in the title role. In other parts he has demonstrated a low droll, a quality required of a good *Falstaff*. I always found him more convincing in the low baritone than bass repertoire, and yet he can bring to a role all the richness and grace of a true basso comico.

Raimondi the master of vocal nuance and the mischievous wide-eyed glances in his element as the fat knight — a physically extravagant Sir John, who will in time master all the mannerisms of portliness. The vocal acting, from the bellow to the most honeyed pianissimo, is superb and the portrayal, like the production, shows a nice sense of the ridiculous without having to play for laughs.

In his scene with Alice this *Falstaff* could convince us he was once a dandy and a charmer; but his best scenes were with Miss Quickly and Ford, where we see the vain-glorying in *Falstaff* side-by-side with the naive. In the last act, the pace sagged slightly, but not at the expense of the balance that Verdi's *Falstaff* reads between tragedy and generosity of spirit.

Barbara Bonney as Nannetta looked and sounded a golden teenage beauty, admirably partnered by Robert Gambill's Fenton. The Alice was Daniela Dessi, who showed some presence in spite of a frumpy costume, and whose voice possesses that hint of steel that marks her out for Verdi's more dramatic roles. Carmen Comas as Miss Quickly was well-endowed in voice and manner, and Alberto Rinaldi's crisp, authoritative baritone was ideal for Ford.

Jeffrey Tate was criticised locally for allowing the orchestra to play too loud. But in a large house he can be forgiven that; and the spirit and brio with which he propelled the performance, especially in the ensembles dominating the second part of each act, were more than compensation. The whole production represented an artistic achievement of the highest order.

The Lighthouse/Bracknell

Richard Fairman

In the six years since its premiere *The Lighthouse* has attracted wide attention. Unlike the expansive *Tower*, which embraces musical and philosophical ideas of far-reaching diversity, this one is more Maxwell Davies keeping to the chamber-music scale that he used so often in the past when writing for the Fires of London. It makes an ideal choice for small groups, as Saturday night's successful production at the Wilde Theatre, Bracknell showed.

Not only the number of performers is small. This is a work which sets its parameters of every kind. It is barely 75 minutes; it inhabits (essentially) just one setting; and its dramatic material, telling the story of three lighthouse keepers who disappeared in mysterious circumstances, continually looks inward, exploring hidden feelings of guilt and repression to explain events that might have had a simple, external cause.

The opera's strength comes from the music, its chosen ground with fertile ideas all manner of sinister influences are brought to bear on the simple plot and Maxwell Davies' own libretto is not, it must be

said, very subtle in this respect. (Some ghosts, a fog, a game with tarot cards and a sea beast are all thrown into the cooking pot.) But the end result is neither too dark nor too puzzling a scenario to lose plausibility.

For the performers the score pushes up against its imposed limits. It would be difficult for anyone hearing the range of sounds coming from the pit to guess how many players were involved, especially when the execution sounds as brilliant in colour and detail as it did there with the twelve musicians under the direction of George Badacsonyi. The singers, for their part, also have to stretch beyond their normal vocal range.

Of the cast of three, the bass Jonathan Roberts made a particularly fine impression with his firm, well-placed singing as Arthur, the uneasy religious ascetic. The other two were well-observed portrayals, too, from Neil Archer and Jeremy White as his two companions. The rising tensions between them were convincingly handled by precise, controlled playing. The building up of an effective evening of operatic suspense that more companies might think of taking on.

Athena's £25,000 art prize

The Athena Art Awards, which have been the UK's largest art prize of £25,000 for the winner, are to continue for a second year with some slight changes. There will be eight finalists, one of whom will be chosen by the public. The other seven each receive £1,000.

The main change is that Athena, the leading publisher and retailer of posters and prints in the UK, will not have automatic reproduction rights on the winners. It is believed that this deterred some entrants in the first year. Also, competitors over 18 may send in as many entries as they wish, and

the selection of the judges will be hung at the Barbican from February 11-March 2, 1987.

The closing date for entries is November 3 and all two-dimensional works of art other than photography are eligible. Athena still hopes to negotiate the exhibition of the winning contributions. Its best selling poster, by Katherine Dickinson, was an entry in last year's competition. If the company can sell 10,000 copies of such an art work at about £1.50 each, the resulting profit goes some way to meeting the £100,000 cost of the competition.

A.T.

Saleroom/Antony Thorncroft

Of Fang and furniture

Sotheby's is enjoying itself in Monte Carlo. After raising £250,000 for a good cause, it is now in a very poor condition. It sold furniture on Sunday for £4,694,926, with a private English collector paying the top price of £567,507 (well over double the forecast) for an ornate mounted lacquer commode by Weisweiler, a great name in late 18th century French furniture.

It came from the collection of the late Charles de Faur of Belgium whose forty pieces brought in £2.4m. There was one disappointment; a Louis XIV century marquetry centre table attributed to Boulle was unsold.

A private American collector paid £423,340 for a pair of Louis XVI cabinets attributed to Weisweiler, while a secretary, which the catalogue said was by Jones, Ricciardi, (53 24/2655), Volpomer; Polabert; Gustoni; Mademoiselle; Die Zaubertafel; Tello Doly (53 24/2657).

In the general auction a Louis XIV console attributed to Boulle and from the collection of A. Roussel went to an Italian dealer for £289,118. All told the Roussel contribution of 53 lots totalled £1,568,800.

Back in London yesterday Sotheby's was offering tribal art. It was a mixed reception, with a total of £438,755 but

almost 30 per cent unsold. There was a good demand for the Berlin items but for some reason, figures (from the region which is now Gabon) were quite out of favour.

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The same American buyer paid £30,800 for a Baga wood stool, rare because the number only around 50,000 as a tribe. The same Swiss buyer acquired a Hambo wood stool for £17,600, below its estimate.

The main disappointment was a Fang male reliquary figure sold for \$30,000 in New York 10 years ago but which failed to attract a bid yesterday. Another Fang figure also failed to find a single buyer, despite the fact it is considered to be one of the half dozen best Fang items surviving; it had carried a £150,000 top estimate.

André Watts/Festival Hall

Andrew Clements

André Watts' contribution to the André Previn Music Festival is exclusively Liszt. After playing the A major Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic on Wednesday, his recital in the Festival Hall on Sunday afternoon was designated as a "Homage to Liszt", a programme which included, together with the B minor Sonata and the Paganini Studies, a varied assortment of smaller pieces. Given the limitations of a single concert it covered the range of the piano music with some thoroughness.

Watts has many of the essential accessories of the successful Liszt specialist: technical assurance which refuses to wilt under severe pressure, the ability to float legato melodies, and an easily invoked streak of flamboyance. Sometimes the steady address is just a little too obvious: "Les jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este" might have been invested with a greater range of colour; the climax of "Un sospiro" pressed too hard.

But in general his judgment of scale was quite precise. A sequence of five late miniatures

from the first *Valse oubliée* to *En rêve*, was perfectly proportioned, appropriately delicate, and each of the Paganini Studies was conceived with a sensible dramatic shape clearly in mind. Some of the most demanding passages in the studies were rattled off with great panache, and none of the traditional pitfalls in the sonata caused him to break his stride even momentarily.

What was consistently lacking was any obvious insight into the creative mind that generated these often startling piano works. Watts is a traditional Liszt player, and his interpretations never strayed beyond the received wisdom of that tradition. In small-scale movements the surface brilliance and precise conjuring of mood got him by; in the sonata, however, the performance became quite uninteresting, without any sense of organic growth, any obvious relationship between form and dramatic function. Too much of it confirmed long-held prejudices about Liszt as a vapid note-spinner; not, I'm sure, the kind of homage that was intended.

Japan old and new/Almeida

Dominic Gih

The celebration of Japanese music at the Almeida, in Islington — only one of the several themes of this year's mammoth festival — continues until next Saturday. I reported last week on the brilliant pianist Aki Takahashi, and her ensemble of five players Sound Space Art. These same players joined forces on Thursday with Richard Bernas' Music Projects/London to give another programme, this time for larger ensembles, of post-war Japanese works.

The chief emphasis was again on the middle generation of Japanese composers, born in the 1920s and 1930s; but the concert opened with two pieces by Yoriyuzo Matsumura (b.1907). To describe Matsumura as the Charles Ives of Japanese music is stretching an analogy, but his music does have a similar sense of unconventional eclectic adventure. Like his *Theme and Variations* for solo piano which we heard last week — an exuberant pot-pourri of Stravinsky, Messiaen, Chopin and Boogie-Woogie — his *Variations on Three Moments of Embryo* is an odd hybrid, a synthesis of 12-tone western manners with formal elements of ancient Japanese music.

The *Embu* ceremony is traditionally performed by two dancers, in an ideal aspect of Matsudaira's piece, though their roles were subsumed on this occasion by pairs of clarinets and flutes, would the dancers surely not also appear? — the music summoned them clearly enough in the mind's eye. The same composer's *Katsura* for soprano, harp, chord, guitar, flute, harp and piano, was a vivid contrast of manners, and especially of timbre, to the starkness of *Embu* — a delicate, rather French instrumentation, elaborating a sequence of Tanaka (traditional Japanese poems of 3 syllables) in a variety of styles. The soprano soloist, admirably secure in her intonation, was Jane Manning.

Yuji Takahashi (the brother of Aki) is Japan's Cornelius Cardew, although there is a difference: whereas Cardew's music was as dumb as his political pronouncements, Takahashi's political pronouncements (including those implied by his programme notes) are as alive as they come but some of the music is original and imaginative. His *Jit* for solo piano and flute — based on a song about a revolutionary Thai poet and guerrilla fighter who

died in 1966 — had a kind of zany charm, and *For You, I Sing the Song* (dedicated to the people's struggle against oppression inside and outside America) is an attractive melody of tunes, stylishly arranged for violin, clarinet, piano and percussion: the Chinese song especially was very pretty.

A Box by Sei-ichi Yuasa (no relation of Yuji Yuasa) unfolded a slow tread in rhythmic but rarely in pitch) unison for two violins for 20 minutes. Minimalist you would have to call it: certainly a piece, as they say in the US these days, to ten out on Yoriaki (no relation to Yoriyuzo) Matsumura's *Genesis* offered 15 minutes of curiously detached, unemotive instrumental and vocal striding — non-expression, without any crescendo or diminution: a purposefully one guesses, casual Creation. Jo Komodo of seven instrumental sound-effects designed to be played as an encore: even when not requested, it ended the evening with its only genuinely Satiesque fragrance.

Saturday evening's long two-part concert, after a recital by the brilliant young guitarist Norio Sato, was devoted to

music for three traditional Japanese instruments, the shakuhachi, the *kyōka* (the *kyōka* is a kind of bamboo flute) and the *suika* (a kind of bamboo flute). The shakuhachi is one of the most beautiful and haunting of the solo instruments. The three solo pieces played by Y. Sato were very regularly short — although in *Kōka* ("Empty Sky") he did manage to generate the beginnings of close, unendingly close, microscopic yet timeless, which characterises the greatest classical shakuhachi performances.

Traditional music for the biwa (a Japanese lute played with a huge triangular wooden plectrum), as well as for the koto (a sort of guitar), I still find deeply absorbing and almost wholly incomprehensible — in the field of music, at least, the paradox is perfectly acceptable. Recent music written for traditional instruments often sounds like an uneasy hybrid: among the postwar works we heard, Takemitsu's *Eclipse* for shakuhachi and biwa seemed to find a sort of poise, and an original voice, delicately between the old and the new.

Arts Guide

Music/Monday, Opera and Ballet/Tuesday, Theatre/Wednesday, Exhibitions/Thursday, A selective guide to all the Arts appears each Friday.

June 20-26

Opera and Ballet

WEST GERMANY

Berlin, Deutsche Oper: Rigoletto, produced by Hans Neuenfels, will have its premiere this week. The cast includes Ingrid Bjoerck, Ruth Hesse, Spas Wenkoff and Martin Tavelin. Don Giovanni rounds off the week (343581).

Hamburg, Staatsoper: The concert version of *Bohème* by Mascagni with Gabriela Benachon, Calisto Savova and Samuel Ramey (351111).

Frankfurt, Oper: Die Entführung aus dem Serail features Faye Robinson, Julie Kaufmann, Peter Blochwitz and Uwe Pape. The week also includes Hans Zender's opera *Stephen Climax*, produced by Alfred Kirchner. Don Pasquale has Barbara Bonney and Sodo Schwabach (258311).

Cologne, Opera: *Cendrillon*, sung in French, has Ann Murray ennobling in the title role. Orfeo brings Kathleen Kuhlmann and Teresa Ringholz together (307161).

Stuttgart, Württembergisches Staatstheater: Der Liebestrank stars Edita Gruberova and Luis Lima. There was much praise for Jeunla when it opened. Also *Manon Lescaut* and Don Giovanni (26321).

Paris, Die Zaubertafel in Marcel Bluval's production tries to show the shaft of optimism shining through the complexity and contradictions of Mozart's work which combines philosophical depth with the Burlesque at the Opéra Comique (452 9986 11).

ITALY

Milan, Teatro alla Scala: Eugene Onegin conducted by Sergiu Celibidache, directed by Andrei Konchalovsky, with Mirella Freni, Elena Zile, Benjamin Luxon (alternating with Angelo Rosconi), Neil Shicoff (Peter Dursky), and Nicolai Glusov, Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien, Debussy, conducted by Sylvain Cambiague and directed, and with choreography by Maurice Béjart (30.9.126).

Milan, Teatro Nuovo: The age of Debussy. New ballets danced by Mirella Freni and Elena Zile.

Salerno, Teatro Regio: The Dance Theatre of Harlem in works by choreographer Arthur Mitchell (54.000).

Naples, Teatro di San Carlo: Carlo Franci and George Inani in Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, with choreography by Roberto Fasella (41.82.60).

Florence, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino: Teatro Comunale: Tosca in a new production by Jonathan Miller, directed by Zubin Mehta, with scenery and costumes by Stefanos Lazaridis. Cast includes Eva Marton (alternating with Sofia Larsson), Giuseppe Giacomini, Silvano Caroli and Italo Tajo (51.22.33).

Spoleto, 12th "two worlds" festival, Teatro Nuovo: Giancarlo Menotti's La Santa di Bleacher Street conducted by Timon Barro and directed by the composer (35.111).

Netherlands, Carra, Wagner's Die Meistersinger from the Netherlands Opera and the English National Opera directed by Elijah Moshinsky and designed by Timothy O'Brien; with the Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Ryo de Waard. Soloists: William Johns, Kathryn Bouleyn,

Norman Bailey, Jari van Nes (Tus. 228 225).

Amsterdam, Concertgebouw: Luciano Berio conducting concert performances of his opera *La Voce della Luna* with the cast from the Florence production, including Livia Rudai, Valeri Popov, Milos, Robert Noll and Lajos Miller, the Rotterdam Philharmonic and Le Groupe Vocal de France (Wed. 71.83.45).

VENUE, Staatsoper: Orpheus, Ballet by Hans Werner Henze. Tosca, Carmen with Barbara Bonney, Gyöngyi Mező, Winauer, Carreño, Trunzsch, with Jones, Ricciardi, (53 24/2655).

Volsperger: Polabert; Gustoni; Mademoiselle; Die Zaubertafel; Tello Doly (53 24/2657).

TOKYO, Ballets Trockadero of Monte Carlo, the all-male troupe in their parodies of classical ballet. The evening's selection includes *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *La Sylphide*, *Saint-Saëns Dying Swan*, Karl Hoken Hall, U-Port, Gotanda (400.9099).

SPAIN, Barcelona, La Tragedia spans the XIV century attributed to Boulle and from the collection of A. Roussel went to an Italian dealer for £289,118. All told the Roussel contribution of 53 lots totalled £1,568,800.

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UK COMPANY NEWS

IN-DEPTH REPORTING DAILY IN THE FT

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Tuesday June 24 1986

Isle of Man

The island's plans to establish itself as an offshore centre with a strongly British slant have reached fruition. The government now waits for the world's banks, financial and shipping companies to arrive, and boost the local economy.

Plenty of room to expand

By Ian Hamilton Fazez

THE ISLE OF MAN is beginning to look as though it has got its act together. It faces a general election in November that will mark a watershed in the way the island is run. The new Tynwald — the island's parliament, which derives from the Vikings in 979 AD — should be able to build quickly on many changes made since the last election in 1981.

One traumatic event spurred the changes: the collapse of the island-based Savings and Investment Bank (SIB) in 1982 with £42m of depositors' money.

The collapse woke people up to the island's inadequate inspection and supervision machinery and joined them out of the backwaters of the offshore financial world. Supervision of the financial sector is now professional, full-time and tough.

Although some complain that things may have gone too far the other way, many delight in the other implication — that the company that passes muster on the Isle of Man must be safe and respectable.

Visible respectability of this sort is vital to the island's wish to develop as a major offshore financial centre. Finance is already the biggest industry, contributing more than one-fifth of national income and nearly twice as much as tourism.

The financial sector is nevertheless underdeveloped. The deposit base in island banks is now well on the way to £3bn, but Jersey was already at £20bn when the Isle of Man was passing the £2bn mark 18 months

ago, while Guernsey was at £5bn.

The main argument the island advances for itself, however, is that London needs respectable offshore bases in its own time zone. Compared with the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands are bursting.

The island has room for growth in every sense of the word: property is relatively cheap and spacious, the political situation is stable, costs and taxes are low, and there is a deliberately engineered absence of unnecessary restraint on business development.

These are the principal trends and developments that have taken place in the past three years.

● **Financial supervision:** The financial supervision commission is now firmly established under Mr Mark Solly. It supports the banking supervisor, Mr Jim Noakes, who has now lifted an embargo on new licences imposed after the SIB collapse. But only banks with established "names" need apply. Size is less important than proven respectability so "good little uns" are just as welcome as, say US giants.

Insurance sector growth, supervised by Mr Duncan Neil, is slow but of high quality. Legislation has been framed to encourage insurance companies, which can apply for exemption from tax on profits deriving from risks written outside the island.

This has encouraged Equity and Life to set up in the past

year, for example, moving key staff from the Channel Islands. The growing market for expatriates' funds will be important here.

● **Shipping Register:** The island's chief marine surveyor, Capt Geoffrey Davis, functions as an equally tough shipping registry version of Mr Noakes and Mr Neil. The register is a subsidiary part of the UK one but since "offshore" agreements can be made with crews, labour costs may be as much as 50 per cent cheaper.

Isle of Man taxation laws bring other advantages. Tynwald passed all the necessary legislation to bind the island to the relevant international conventions in 1984. Canadian Pacific and Ellerman have already registered ships on the island and negotiations are well advanced to bring in other big names.

The aim is to be a respectable flag of convenience. Rust Buckets are not allowed and there has to be local management.

● **Professional infrastructure:** Fannell Kerr Foster used to dominate the island's accountancy profession, training most of the people who set up small practices. Feet Marwick, Touche Ross, Coopers and Lybrand, and Arthur Andersen have all arrived in one way or another, the latter two by moving in with existing local practices.

Peats, which was growing quickly under its own steam and the leadership of Mr Peter Bell-Hill, has now merged

with a local firm to take a quantum leap forward. Touche Ross is also growing but has decided to go it alone. Its resident partner, Mr David Burton, is now assisted by part-time visits from Liverpool by Mr John Poirrette, a senior figure in UK operations.

The big international firms will probably contribute much to developing both the financial sector and the shipping register, since they have clients around the world whom they can introduce directly to the island.

Getting this part of the infrastructure right is also critical to a sound financial sector as a result of the amount of indemnity insurance which the Manx Government now insists that auditors carry.

In effect, this cut out small firms from auditing banking and insurance companies, adding to safety.

The legal infrastructure is also being developed. Manx legal practitioners, who are called advocates and practice as both solicitors and barristers, have been criticised for keeping out people from other jurisdictions, even though local talent was sometimes not up to scratch in international legal and financial requirements.

There are 40 advocates now, almost double the number of 15 years ago and Mr William Cain, the island's Attorney-General, is setting up much more intensive training for them. He expects about 50 to be enough eventually — a number comparable to other offshore centres of similar

size. However, legislation this year will enable lawyers from outside to practice on the island in specialist areas, and to call themselves lawyers. They will not be allowed to appear in the Manx courts, though English barristers can be licensed to appear in special circumstances.

One important aspect of the new law will be that it too will act as an inspection mechanism. Lawyers will have to be approved by the Attorney-General. Previously, people with dubious backgrounds and qualifications set up as "legal advisers," claiming to be solicitors. This legal equivalent of the crooked bank or ageing rust bucket of a ship will now be outlawed.

● **Constitutional change:** At present the head of the Manx government is the chairman of the executive council. He is appointed by Tynwald, but so are the members of the council in a situation that the present chairman, Dr Edgar Mann, compares with being leader of the British Labour Party and saddled with an executive of widely diverging views.

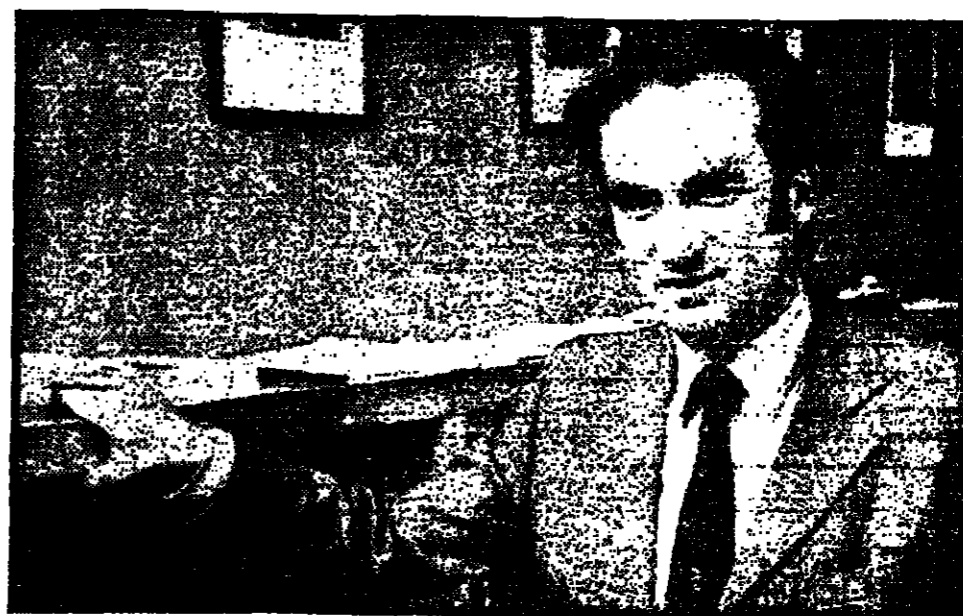
The checks and balances of Manx democracy also extend to a series of policy-making boards. Membership can make change difficult. Moreover, members of Tynwald are all independent: the chairman of the council has to achieve consensus on everything and can be turned out on a vote of no confidence.

After this year's election, Tynwald will appoint the chairman but he will pick his own team. Tynwald can reject it and tell him to try again but practical politics suggests that the island is now well on its way to cabinet government, with the office of the chairman of the executive council much more comparable to that of a prime minister than ever before.

Reinforcing this will be a ministerial system that will overcome the problem of the boards. To make this work the present 26 government departments will be rationalised into nine. Dr Mann expects massive reductions in bureaucracy and a government capable of responding quickly to political, social or market needs.

It will also be a national government of independents. If it had to be painted a political hue this would be very difficult. The chairman of the Finance Board — the island's "Chancellor of the Exchequer" — is Dr David Moore. He thinks the island is fundamentally Liberal-Social Democratic in outlook.

The need for consensus and compromise, reinforcing this, is



Right: Dr Edgar Mann, who heads the island's government, and (above) Mr William Cain, the Attorney-General

Pictures by Hugh Routledge

does the small size of the community — 65,000 people — which is probably an insufficient critical mass for factions to form effective parties.

The new structure, however, will enable a clear line to emerge on one major constitutional issue — abrogation of the customs agreement with the UK. This upset the manufacturing sector when it was first mooted three years ago because of fears that different rates of VAT between island and mainland would create export barriers.

Now, people are beginning to see that it might confer more widespread overall advantages for the island's economy, especially tourism, enabling ferries to become duty-free and boosting the retail sector via tax-reduced, if not tax-free, shopping.

Moreover, there is an important political point: the Isle of Man has competed with the UK for rich or talented residents by having much lower direct taxes (a single rate of 20 per cent). With a British government aiming for lower direct taxes but possibly higher indirect ones, the island may need to compete on VAT too, which it cannot do unless the customs agreement is abrogated.



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ISLE OF MAN 2

Banking

Long wait for the big banks to arrive

IT IS a little unfortunate for the Isle of Man that when it has finally got its financial regulatory plans organised, the major international banks have turned their attention to the Third World debt crisis or, more positively, to growth in the securities markets around the world. Either way, their enthusiasm for new branches in locations such as the Isle of Man is distinctly limited.

Manx officials note that several of the big banks have shown some interest recently, but are under no illusions that they are doing more than updating their files on the island.

"We would dearly love to have a major US or European bank set up here," admits Mr Jim Noakes, the island's banking supervisor, without suggesting that any breakthrough is just around the corner.

He remains optimistic that in the longer run such major international banks will recognise the Isle of Man's attractions, which include availability of staff and office space, good communications, a position in the European time zone, and political security.

Mr Noakes might have added that Jersey is crisscrossed full of reasons, for example, why Roy West trust has decided to make the Isle of Man its European headquarters — while many Caribbean offshore centres are tainted by political uncertainty.

or corruption. Unfortunately, the island's own big scandal, arising from the £12m collapse of the Savings and Investment Bank four years ago, continues to cast a shadow over the financial scene. A still secret government report on the affair could create a stir if it is ever published, while legal actions against the government by depositors are pending.

Nevertheless, banking business is good. The latest figures show that deposits with Manx banks rose by a record £190m in the first quarter of 1986 to £2,770m, an increase of 28 per cent over the year ended March.

The reasons for this acceleration are not clear, but may be connected with new business in shipping, insurance and investment. Growth in deposits by mainland investors seeking to avoid the composite rate imposed in last year's UK Budget is said not to have been as big a factor as was originally expected, although some effect has been seen.

The TSB (Scottish), for instance, set up a new branch on the Isle of Man last year specifically to handle non-CRT business, and has pulled in £12m so far.

Elsewhere, the establishment early in June of the island's first association of overseas bankers may one day be seen as a landmark, though the initial roll is modest at just eight members.

Mr John Sale, general

manager of the Isle of Man Bank — an independently managed unit of the National Westminster group — says that the island's banking sector is expanding healthily. "The government are right in being willing to license only top class names," he suggests. "It is only a matter of time before we see results from their policy."

There are at present 44 licensed banks on the Isle of Man, and 10 companies with deposit-taking licences. A moratorium on new licences was lifted last year following the development of the new regulatory framework under the Financial Supervision Commission, but only well-established banks need apply.

"We decided not to license any more private banks," Mr Noakes says. The problems of controlling changes of ownership were more than a small accountants' issue. A bank could contemplate.

During the troubled period that followed the SIB collapse several other banks left the island, or were squeezed out, but those that remain are trading profitably within the FSC's new rules.

New banks are welcomed, but Mr Noakes warns: "We are very tough. We only want prime quality institutions. We don't want lease plate operations. A bank has to have staff and premises. We are an under-

developed offshore centre and we want real operations."

Mr Mark Solly, director of the FSC, is also involved with regulating other forms of financial service businesses, including investment managers, of which there are 40 or more on the island with so-called Section 7 licences under the 1975 Banking Act. But insurance has been placed under a separate authority.

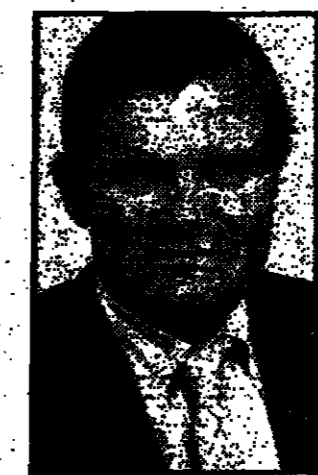
One of Mr Solly's current preoccupations is whether the Isle of Man will receive "Designated Country" status under the new UK "Financial Services" legislation.

Such status would help Manx firms to sell into the UK market, but on the other hand the UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry would be able to specify the classes of schemes to which any concessions would apply, and Manx unit-trusts, for example, might therefore be put into a kind of UK straitjacket.

However, it is realistic to expect that any offshore centre will have to be very careful in its relationships with the mainland, or invite retrospective legislation. The island's chief judge, Deemster Arthur Luft, is at present deciding what to do about the official inspectors' report on the circumstances of the collapse.

He could decide to publish it in whole or in part, or to withhold it on the grounds that it will form the basis of criminal prosecutions and might be considered to be prejudicial.

A complication is that the contents of the report, if they contain criticism of the government regulators of the day,



Jim Noakes: no brass plate operations.



Mark Solly: questions of designated status.

ment, and the Costa del Sol for those enjoying retirement in the sun.

Much in this business depends on reputation, and a speedy and dignified settlement of the Savings and Investment Bank affair would be the biggest single boost that the Isle of Man could hope for.

Four years after the bank failed in July 1982 there are still many loose ends. For instance, the island's chief judge, Deemster Arthur Luft, is at present deciding what to do about the official inspectors' report on the circumstances of the collapse.

He could decide to publish it in whole or in part, or to withhold it on the grounds that it will form the basis of criminal prosecutions and might be considered to be prejudicial.

A complication is that the contents of the report, if they contain criticism of the government regulators of the day,

might have implications for separate actions currently being pursued by depositors against the Manx Government for alleged negligence in failing to prevent the bank's collapse.

The government had a setback in this respect a few weeks ago when the Deemster ruled that one of the suits, by a company called Coltfoot, could count as a consolidated class action on behalf of over 500 other depositors.

This would make it easier for small depositors to take legal action. But a government appeal against this decision is pending. To the present regulators, who were appointed after the Savings and Investment Bank failure, this affair is unfortunate ancient history. Mr Noakes says that his only interest in the inspectors' report — which he has not seen — is in its possible lessons for the future.

Barry Riley

Financial supervision

Confident of firm control

ROYAL ASSENT received earlier this month for the Insurance Act should mean that the Isle of Man will be able to promote its attractions as an offshore insurance centre bolstered by the confidence that it can maintain consistent control over companies in the sector.

This is the second recent piece of legislation affecting the insurance sector. A few years ago the island passed tax legislation which allowed it to promote itself as a base for offshore insurance businesses, including the "captive" which are often set up in offshore tax havens by major industrial companies.

The island has enjoyed modest success in attracting captives, with 29 established so far and others being licensed at the rate of about one a month. The current focus is on specialised risks, such as professional indemnity insurance,

rather than the reinsurance-linked activities which boosted the growth of captives a few years ago.

But the Isle of Man remains a long way behind Guernsey and has not begun to dent the international domination, especially of American-based business, by Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Yet Mr Duncan Neil, insurance supervisor, seems happy with a steady rather than spectacular rate of progress. "I don't want the Americans to view us as an alternative to the Caribbean," he says.

The island's reputation as an honest centre of insurance business is the first priority. In any case, the active insurance companies have a relatively little value — the economy of the Isle of Man. It is more important that it should have an insurance exchange through which industrial companies could trade their insurance requirements. This plan appears to have been put into cold storage for the time being, but provisions for such an exchange have been made in the new legislation. "We could activate it fairly quickly," Mr Neil says.

The new framework for insurance regulations was devised by a working party consisting largely from Lloyd's Life and Royal, and Mr Roger Whewell, an insurance specialist from consultants Peat Marwick in London.

He defines the aim of the act as to provide flexibility and the minimum of bureaucracy while at the same time discharging the government's responsibility to maintain a sound and orderly market and to protect the island's reputation.

Rather than follow the UK pattern whereby insurance companies issue only superficial shareholders' accounts but have to file extremely detailed separate returns with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Isle of Man has opted to improve the quality of the basic shareholders' annual report.

Two local directors of reports, or a registered local insurance manager, are required. The idea of this is that the insurance supervisor will be able to find people on the island ready to take responsibility for an insurance company's actions, and will not have to chase "shadowy" figures around, say, the Caribbean.

An insurance authority has been established, independent of the Financial Supervision Commission which looks after banking and other financial sector activity. To begin with it will have to look after no more than about 40 companies, but the hope is that this figure will grow, though not so fast as to put a strain on the resources available to support the new regulatory framework.

Duncan Neil points out that the rate of expansion will depend on factors beyond the Isle of Man's control. But he is satisfied that the opportunities offered by the island are now widely known.

Barry Riley

Shipping register

British but cheaper

CANADIAN PACIFIC is the latest recruit to the Isle of Man's new and growing shipping register, joining Ellerman, the first big name to register after the island's government passed the necessary framework of marine legislation in 1984. More than 40 ships are now registered at the four Manx ports.

Other international shipping companies are in an advanced stage of negotiation, and the register is expected to grow quickly. The register is a subsidiary but independent of the main British one in the same way as those of Hong Kong and Bermuda, so British safety regulations apply.

It is open only to British owning companies but that does not stop foreign shipowners transferring ownership appropriately so as to qualify.

The principal benefit of registering in the Isle of Man is in wage costs. Crew agreements are negotiated on offshore terms, so that they also benefit from the island's low tax regime and are not subject to UK pay-as-you-earn, though crews take care of their own pension arrangements.

The resultant packages mean higher pay for crews but reductions of as much as 50 per cent in total personnel costs to the employer, compared with what has to be paid under union agreements if a ship is registered at a British port.

Other financial benefits include 100 per cent capital allowances in the first year or, alternatively, the company can register as tax-exempt and pay no tax on profits accrued outside the island. The island government acted right from the outset to counter criticism by the National Union of Seamen that the register might become a haven for sub-standard ships looking for a cheap flag of convenience. It did

so by adopting an approach to inspection as rigorous as that in the island's financial services. Capt. Geoffrey Davis, the chief marine surveyor, has two assistants, one a specialist in marine architecture and the other in engineering. Ships have to be inspected at least once every five years.

Standards are also being kept up by another condition of registry vessels have to be owned, or managed on the island. The shipping equivalent of the absentee landlord therefore need not apply. What this means, in practice, is considerable opportunities for ship management companies.

Denholm and Wallens have each set up offices and expect to do well. Denholm's operations are run by Capt Robert Speedie, who moved from the group's Glasgow base to set them up ahead of the legislation being enacted, so as to be ready from day one.

Success can be judged from

the growth in numbers of staff employed, from seven to 30 in two-and-a-half years.

Wallens has also brought jobs, employing nine, and Canadian Pacific is starting with one person to manage the two bulk solids carriers it has registered so far. Other ship management companies, together with ships already under them, are in the offing.

Capt Davis says: "If UK owners come to the Isle of Man they feel happier than going far away, say, to the Bahamas. We can be regarded as a respectable convenient flag, rather than a flag of convenience with all the connotations that implies."

As to the flag itself, Manx-registered ships still fly the normal Red Ensign, indicating British ownership. Only if the ship is Manx-owned will it fly the Red Ensign decorated with the Legs of Man.

Ian Hamilton Fazey

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ISLE OF MAN 3

New residents

Island life charms when the penny drops

IMMIGRANTS are not called that in the Isle of Man. To the government they are known as "new residents" but the native islanders call them "come-overs." Many immigrants have a different name yet for themselves, however— "sent-overs," indicating that they had little choice in settling there.

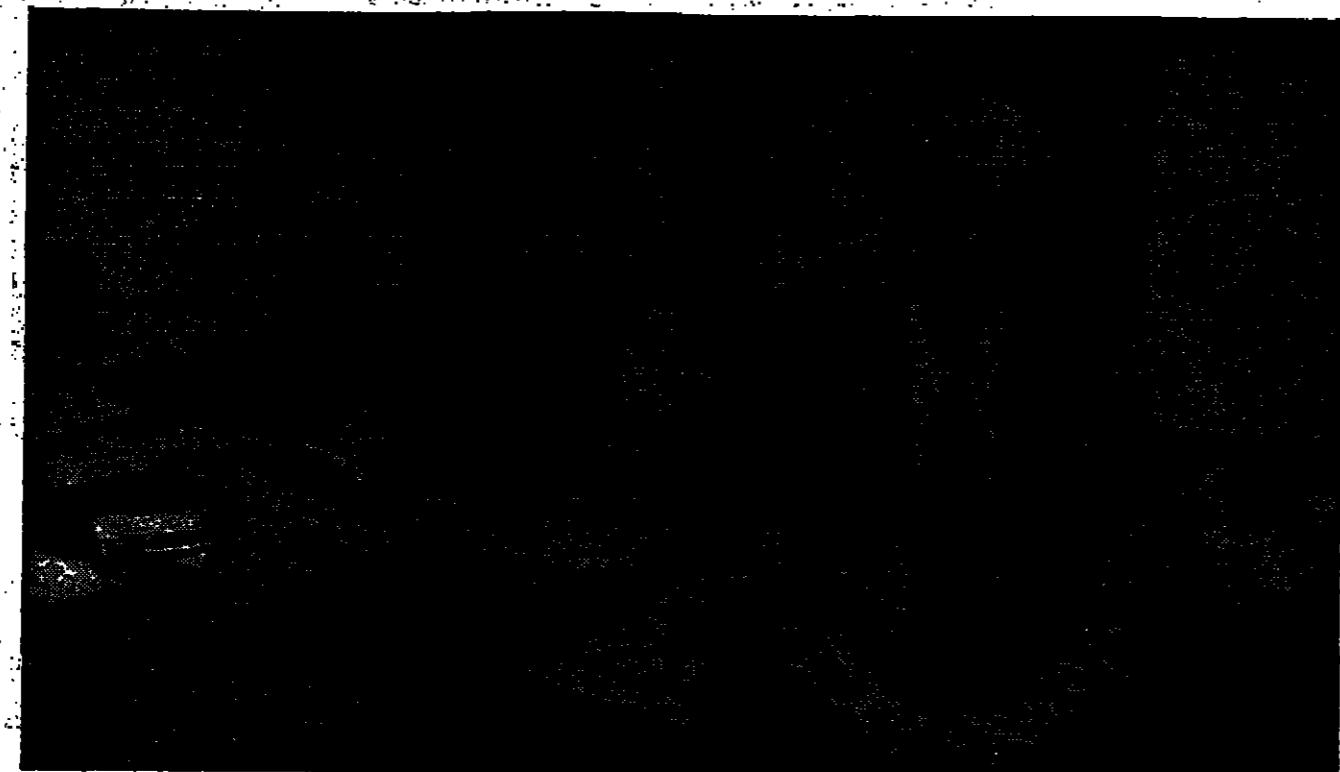
Indeed, there may be more sent-overs than anyone ever suspected. According to a study by Mori, commissioned by the government and published last month, 10 per cent of a sample of new residents were sent by their companies or otherwise had no real choice in moving.

Being a sent-over is not like transportation in days of old. For most, island life quickly charms them into permanent residence. As Mr John Sands, who runs Aero Designs, the Short Brothers subsidiary, puts it: "It took about six months for the penny to drop. Then it was a matter of ensuring that I would have no reason to leave."

He was sent by the Royal Air Force to command a now-disused bombing range in the Irish Sea. His eventual move to Shorts fitted neatly. The aircraft company could not get enough designers to work in its Belfast headquarters so it set up on the island seven years ago and will have 50 employees by the end of this year.

Many of them are come-overs but others are local residents and critical for the island—three technicians and a technician's apprentice have been taken on four years running. Mr Sands is in a position to ensure that come-overs make their decisions with their eyes open and does so, spelling out the disadvantages of island life clearly as well as the advantages.

These merged in the Mori survey as the cost and inconvenience of travel and transport



John Sands: no reason to leave after adapting to island life

on and off the island, as well as the high cost of the locally-generated electricity. Other drawbacks among new residents were poor shopping facilities and a higher cost of living. A third of wives interviewed complained of isolation.

These are the sort of problems to be expected on an island, albeit large, with a small (65,000) population. Long-term or native residents in the Mori survey rated the problems as much less important than the newcomers did. They also over-estimated the island's advantages, which suggests that

people either adapt and adjust, or they go.

Even six years ago there was an attitude on the island of "If you don't like it, there's a boat at nine o'clock every morning." This has changed, however, with the present generation of island leaders, anxious to develop the Manx economy. The "welcome mat" is broader and there is practical help, such as temporary housing for key workers.

The new residents policy is aimed at anyone who will bring skills to the island that will generate economic activity and,

hopefully, growth. Immigration is theoretically open to anyone and the days when only rich, non-working come-overs were welcome have long gone.

It is controlled, however, through the issue of work permits. Thus one middle-aged engineer who moved found that his eldest son had to stay in England because he had no special skills to offer that could not be found among island's teenagers who had also left school.

Companies' motivation for moving to the island centres on fiscal matters and island life.

In the Mori survey, low company taxes, political stability and personal reasons all scored more than 80 per cent with people who had arrived during the past five years.

However, sea communications were rated poor by 76 per cent, and 81 per cent complained about the cost of energy. Just over half were unhappy about the domestic supply of managers. Nevertheless only a quarter of businesses would not make the same relocation decision again, and then became of the peculiarly "island" fac-

tors of transport links and energy.

Talking to come-overs, it soon becomes clear that it is mainly a matter of adjustment. Although some people never settle, most soon start to weigh the good points against the bad and find the scales tilting heavily in the island's favour.

"Quality of life" seems to assume greater importance as people experience it. Factors scoring highly in the Mori survey included a low crime rate, relaxed life-style, scenic beauty, a safe environment for children, a friendly local population and low personal taxation.

One of the latest new residents is Mr Jeremy Hewlett, who opened up Equity and Law International life assurance on the island last July.

He was already an islander, moving from the Channel Islands. What motivated Equity and Law was the developing Manx legal framework aimed at attracting insurance companies.

Lloyd's Life and Eagle Star are long-established, but Allied Dunbar are also newcomers. Mr Hewlett says: "We were getting a lot of inquiries from the expatriate market but we're not happy with the legal framework in Jersey. The expat market is 2m strong and growing by 30,000 a year. We wanted to operate offshore and came to see Duncan Neil, the insurance supervisor."

"We discovered that the Isle of Man has law, space, room to grow and a government committed to the expansion of the financial sector."

The company, like its competitors, operates several funds, some aimed at UK residents. Although investors may have fewer safeguards than in the UK, the Manx government's new resident policy ensures that only reputable companies, which could not afford the opprobrium at home if they behaved badly offshore, are allowed to operate.

Mr Hewlett's company, which trades through brokers, agents or similar intermediaries, received 1,800 inquiries in the first week when it announced its new Isle of Man schemes. The move has brought in six come-overs while creating six additional local jobs.

His only complaint is the cost and inconvenience of transport. As if to emphasise the point the next day fog disrupted Ronaldsway Airport and he missed connecting flights to Jersey, from where he was due to go to France on the day after.

But that is island life. Local people say you cannot have everything and that business potential and keeping more of your profits and income goes a long way towards easing any pain.

Stuart Alexander Ian Hamilton Fazey

Manx Telecom

Showpiece promised

IT TOOK British Telecom less than four months to beat off the challenge of Cable and Wireless's Manx subsidiary and gain the licence to provide all the telecommunications services for the Isle of Man.

But that was only the beginning of lengthy negotiations with the government over exactly how those services will be provided when the franchise comes into operation on January 1, 1987 for an initial 20-year period. There are several conflicts of interest to be resolved.

For the company which will take over the service on that day will be Manx Telecom and it will be expected to stand alone, fight alone and make profits alone while at the same time providing a public service. It will have to fulfil all the promises, offered and extracted in those "highly publicised" complex major investment programme and satisfy the differing needs of international bankers and village communities.

Although a wholly-owned subsidiary of British Telecom on the mainland, it will have to look after a customer base that is a microcosm of that available to its parent and operate an overseas division. It will have just 23,000 customers, compared with the 20m of British Telecom.

The man who must make the whole thing work, and who describes himself as the one left holding the parcel when the music stops, is Jim Greenhill, a genial, Geordie with a no-nonsense, sleeves rolled-up approach. The scale of the job he is taking on is summed up in the much-publicised company aim of Manx Telecom: "to establish on the Isle of Man a world showpiece of telecommunications."

That is a tall order. It is based on a plan to make the island's set-up a model for British Telecom to show to other potential customers around the world just how they can look after the needs of both large and small countries. Like everyone else, British Telecom has not been slow to capitalise on its expertise and market it through a consultancy division.

Promises

Greenhill is also the man who must persuade private investors to buy shares in his company. There are signs that the Manx Government is to try the least lukewarm about taking an equity stake but Greenhill is confident that he will be able to offer shares to investors after about two years.

He should have no difficulty convincing people about his ability to spend money but he will also be required to demonstrate that there is a good chance of making profits.

At the moment he is committed to spending something like £1m a year for each of the 20 years of the licence. This is on top of the £5m spent in the past five years and is complicated by the front-end loading which will see half of that £20m spent in the first five years.

So there will have to be substantial growth in demand if

there is to be an adequate return on the investment which the company is making and, consequently, any hope of either shareholders' capital growth or shareholders' dividend growth for shareholders. And that means growth in both the size and requirements of the business.

All of which means some tough decisions on the new tariff structure. Historically, charges in the Isle of Man were set at the same level as the rest of the UK but, in making its presentation to the Isle of Man Government, British Telecom said "developments in recent years have made a different approach now both possible and desirable."

It went on to say that Manx Telecom would be free to establish its own tariffs and set prices especially tailored to meet the needs of the island's community.

Without making any promises, that general policy statement went on to say that one of the options included a reduction in small prices in 1987. So can Manx subscribers look forward to smaller bills from next year?

Radio paging

Jim Greenhill is clear about the need for balance. While some islanders see Manx Telecom as a public service and would even like local calls to be made, other subscribers have to be balanced by commercial reality. The variety of services to be provided by Manx Telecom to such a small community will have to be paid for.

The commercial sector understands this but even they will want to see expensive facilities like packet switching available at a reasonable price. The peaks and troughs of demand caused by the tourist season can mean much spare capacity in the off season; there are major investments in fibre optical cable links which will help communications with Europe, and the satellite earth station to improve communications with North America.

And there are those items to be offered by Manx Telecom because they were required to match the attractions of Cable and Wireless. One of them is itemised billing, which Manx Telecom is committed to introducing in Douglas next year and after that throughout the island.

Not everyone believes that itemised billing is particularly beneficial. It means extra expense in changing the billing system and, at domestic level, can be as much a cause of strife as a budget control mechanism.

Add in the introduction of cellular radio and mobile phones, radio paging and a video-conference studio, adding up to carry out functions previously carried out on the mainland and installing the latest digital systems which will see each of the island's 11 exchanges replaced by 1990 and the pressures on Jim Greenhill and his new board of directors are obvious.

So the answer is that, when final submissions are made in July, while some changes may be reduced in the next 18 months,

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ISLE OF MAN 4

Steam Packet Company

Headhunt brings a break with tradition

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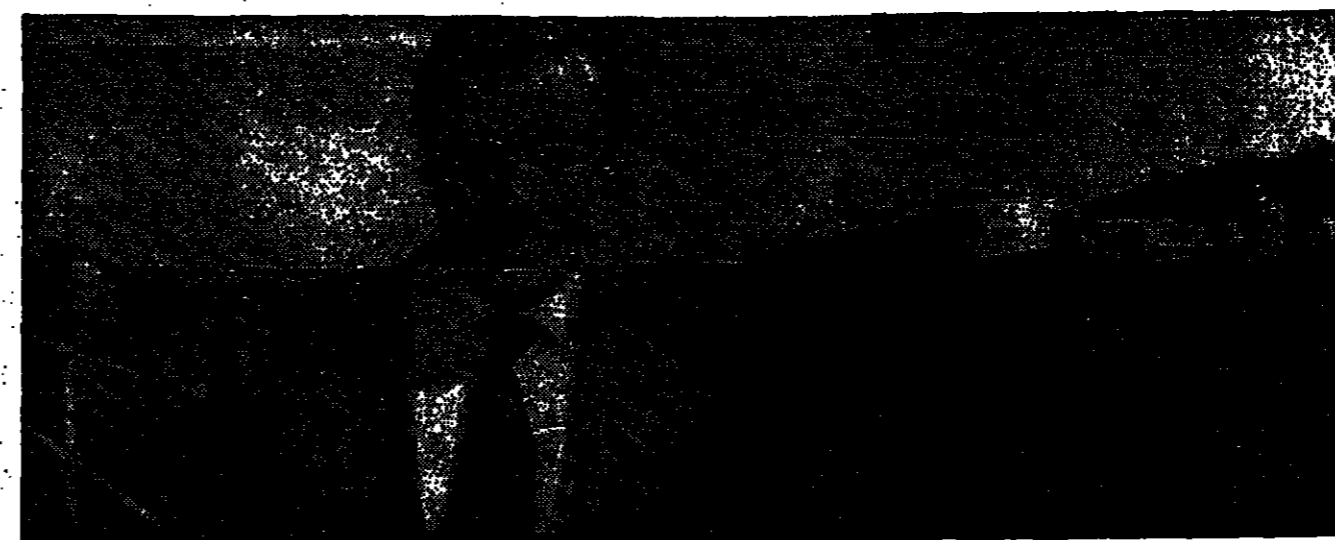
TO SAY that the new chief executive of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company represents a major break with tradition is to put it mildly. David Dixon is 44 and a graduate in politics, philosophy and economics. Moreover, he has never worked for the company before and is not a Manxman.

Even his title indicates radical change. Traditionally, the Steam Packet company had a general manager who had risen through the company, and answered to a non-executive, policy-making board of which, until recently, he was not a member. Mr Dixon is in charge and on the board and expected to lead it. It is a fundamental development.

One of his jobs is to ensure that the company's tribulations stop consuming disproportionate amounts of senior management time at the headquarters of its majority shareholder, Sealink, which has a 42 per cent stake.

He was headhunted from Associated British Ports, where he was in charge of the smaller harbours around the UK. Previously, he worked for British Railways, which he joined as a management trainee after university at Oxford. His skills are therefore in the up-to-date general management of transport industry.

Being an outsider is a critical qualification, for Mr Dixon's role is also about peacemaking after seven years' war between Sealink and the Steam Packet. This ended last year with a financial restructuring that left Sealink able to call the tune as the two companies merged operations under the Steam Packet flag.



David Dixon: outsider with a peace keeping role and up to date skills

Bitterness ran deep among people who were involved in the war but Mr Dixon has come to his job untainted by any of it. For example, one of his difficulties is the merging of the two companies. Many of Sealink's were ambitious former employees of the Steam Packet who went over to the opposition for career advancement rather than wait "boggins" turn. The old hands resent their victorious return and the threat they pose to long standing seniority systems.

Mr Dixon hopes to make everyone stop dwelling in the past and work towards vital goals ahead.

Elimination of the Steam Packet's £2m-plus overdraft is

but one of them. This year the company is budgeting for only a small profit after losses last year which—even if extraordinary items are ignored—still amount to about £600,000.

The merger with Sealink cost about £1m and the Steam Packet also had a £2m mistake to contend with—a roll-on, roll-off ferry, the Mona's Isle, which it bought to sail between Douglas and the Sealink-owned port of Heysham in north Lancashire. The ship was an inefficient disaster and proved unable to manoeuvre well enough to dock unaided at Heysham in rough weather. This heightened local anger at the company's summary withdrawal of services from its traditional port of Liverpool.

Manxair

Fighting to keep the Heathrow link

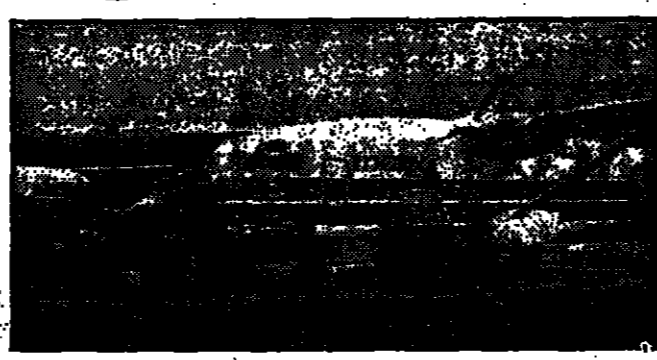
THE ISLE OF MAN has this year united to defend one of its principal links with the UK—Manx Airlines' three-day service between its airport, Ronaldsway and London Heathrow.

The British Civil Aviation Authority is trying to ease congestion at Heathrow and has recommended that smaller carriers such as Manx Airlines should fly to Gatwick. The effect would be to prevent the smaller airlines acting as feeders for the principal international services in and out of the UK.

The general belief on the island is that this would be disastrous for its business community, and particularly the financial services sector. Some companies have already stated that if the Heathrow link goes, so will they.

The airline carries more than 60,000 passengers a year on the route, using a Viscount. The standard return fare is £130, with certain midweek day return tickets £20 cheaper. The success of the route has been important to the airline's performance.

Mr Tim Stevens, the commercial manager, says: "We are hopeful that common sense will prevail. The CAA report is not with the British Transport Secretary, the island's government, business community and we ourselves have united and made our feelings known. We



A Manx aircraft loads at Belfast Harbour Airport.

are hopeful that the recommendation will be rejected. Manx Airlines is now thoroughly established commercially and will shortly announce record profits on its 1985 turnover of £10.4m. In 1984 it made £500,000 on £3.4m. When it launched in November 1982 its owners, British Midland and Air UK, were projecting first-year losses of £1.25m, which the new airline managed to cut to only £250,000.

A key factor was a growing fleet of Short 360 computer aircraft—which are fuel-efficient and quick to turn round, enabling fares to be pared to the bone.

Manx also has the low overheads of a small, locally-based company, hiring such facilities as servicing from its main shareholder (75 per cent), British Midland. Computerisation has enabled constant monitoring of profitability per seat and flexible pricing policies to seize market opportunities. The basic approach to routing has been to use the island's own aircraft to serve only a few routes, leaving the rest to be handled by the principal destinations of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast and Blackpool. Manx also operates the route between Liverpool and Belfast harbour, in the heart of the city, and this year has taken over Liverpool-Heathrow from British Midland.

The overall, year-round loading of 87 per cent for Manx budget was just over 60 per cent—shows just how well Manx has worked it out. What helped to achieve this figure was the

airline's success in boosting discretionary, off-peak travel on its link with Liverpool.

This was introduced in 1985 as the "farecracker" service to compete with sea crossings by the Steam Packet Company. In exchange for booking restrictions, the fare dropped to half-price and 18,600 passengers took advantage.

When the Steam Packet stopped its daily Liverpool service last year, however, the £22 each way, farecracker service took off, with 60,845 passengers. There was little evidence of a switch from other, regular flights. A similar performance is expected this year. The combination of sensible pricing policy and tight management control has clearly paid off.

Indeed, Manx airlines' only real problem may well be its inability to control the weather. This can be a constant disadvantage with the Short 360 unpressurised, the weather means that flying can sometimes be quite exhilarating—but there are problems if fog closes Ronaldsway.

In an age of all-weather landing systems elsewhere, this can make the Isle of Man look somewhat behind the times, as was the case earlier this month—Friday the 13th—when aircraft could not land at the terminal soon filled up with frustrated people, some of whom then missed important connections. However rare this may be, it

is as important in its way as the Heathrow link itself, a vital part of the island's credibility. With links to the UK a principal criticism of business newcomers, it needs the attention of the island's government if confidence in the infrastructure is not to be dented.

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Property

Some hope of prices moving

THE SMARTLY dressed young woman in the estate agent's office in central Douglas was a little apprehensive. How were prices doing, was there the prospect of an increase in values this year?

The young man was reassuring. Yes, he thought that the market was moving. How were prices doing, was there the prospect of an increase in values this year?

Property values on the island have, like the population, been rather static these past few years when, in some parts of the mainland, they have been soaring ahead. Government concern in 1979 about any rapid expansion in the number of people coming to live on the island led to thoughts of restriction, but the prospect of artificially dampened demand only put the brakes even harder on an over-supplied market.

Since February of last year, however, the TCA has resolved to attract more new residents, with incoming businessmen the primary target. As it takes some time for that policy to bear fruit — it can take 12 to 24 months for a company to complete the process of first thinking of moving to the island and actually moving in — its effects on property prices will also be delayed. But there are already signs of values at the upper end of the market becoming more firm.

As more banking and financial services firms move in so the market in houses over £100,000 is lifting. While recognising that it is always possible to buy large properties cheaply in remote or depressed areas, Keith Kerruish,

senior partner in Chrystal Bros Stott and Kerruish, dismisses thoughts that the Isle of Man is any way similar to the property markets of the depressed north of England.

"In many ways the island is a bargain hunter's paradise, offering exceptional value for money and, because it is so small, no part of it is inaccessible to Douglas," he says. All of which is good news for companies wishing to move in top executives, especially as they may even have to stump up part of the cost of ensuring that these employees have an acceptably high standard of life-style.

But a situation where it is possible to buy substantial, well-maintained and well-sited properties at well below the cost of just rebuilding cannot go on for ever, believes Keith Kerruish, and where prices have been static, even at the top end, he expects them to rise by about 5 per cent this year. By recent Isle of Man standards that's almost a boom.

There are some new housing developments taking place, executive houses at Howstrake Heights, luxury flats at King Edward Bay, two to five-bedroom houses at Braddan Hills. It is possible to have extensive houses built, so, one way or another, there is ample choice for an incoming businessman.

There is also a helpful position at the other end of the market in that there is a plentiful supply of low-cost houses for first-time buyers, an important factor in keeping staff happy. For between £20,000 and £25,000 it is possible to buy a pleasant small home.

ability of office or commercial premises. There is a number of new office developments taking place and, at the moment, are attracting support.

An indication of cost is that the 15,000 square feet Heritage House development in the prime business district of Athol Street will be about £10 per sq ft per annum. Stray only a few hundred yards from Athol Street, though still in the heart of Douglas and the rent may come down to only £5 per square foot for good class office accommodation.

However, as more companies move in then rents in what have been second choice sites seem set to rise, though an expanded business community will need expanded services. There are already grumbles about the lack of car parking spaces, but no complaints about the price of 60p per space per day.

Both Douglas Corporation and the Manx Government are under constant lobby pressure to do something to alleviate the parking problem but it is likely the position will have to worsen before it gets better.

There is a feeling that if a company is in the financial sector, then it must be in Douglas, but there are attractions to both Ramsey and Castletown, one of them being office rents at £3 per square foot. Douglas, however, is set to retain its dominance, not least because it is also the most likely choice of any shipping and ship management companies which the island manages to attract in its latest expansion strategy.

There is no major industrial development taking place on the island, but a significant breakthrough occurred last year when B & Q, the do-it-yourself store

subsidiary of Woodworth, obtained planning permission to use a 30,000 sq ft warehouse on the outskirts of Douglas.

Though in any case there are just not enough people on the island to support many superstore developments, the overall policy on the island has been to preserve the traditional towns-centre shopping sites, though there has been the usual problem of keeping the small village store as a viable option.

The Heritage scheme will also have shops and an hotel aimed at the business visitor, and the Palace Hotel group, which has been pioneering a major leisure complex next to its seatfront site, is also involved in a joint venture with the Rigall family, local landowners, in the development of the Castletown Golf Links and Hotel.

Farms tend to be smaller in average size than on the mainland, about 120 to 140 acres, and prices never reached the heady heights experienced in England when institutional investors were also buying the farms, and that also means they have not been values drop in the wake of over-production and the imposition of quotas.

There are about 70,000 cultivated acres, principally held by grassland farmers, and the price-per-acre is heavily dependent on the quality of the house and other buildings that go with it. It could be argued that the price-per-acre is £2,000 an acre, though only about seven or eight farms a year come on to the market.

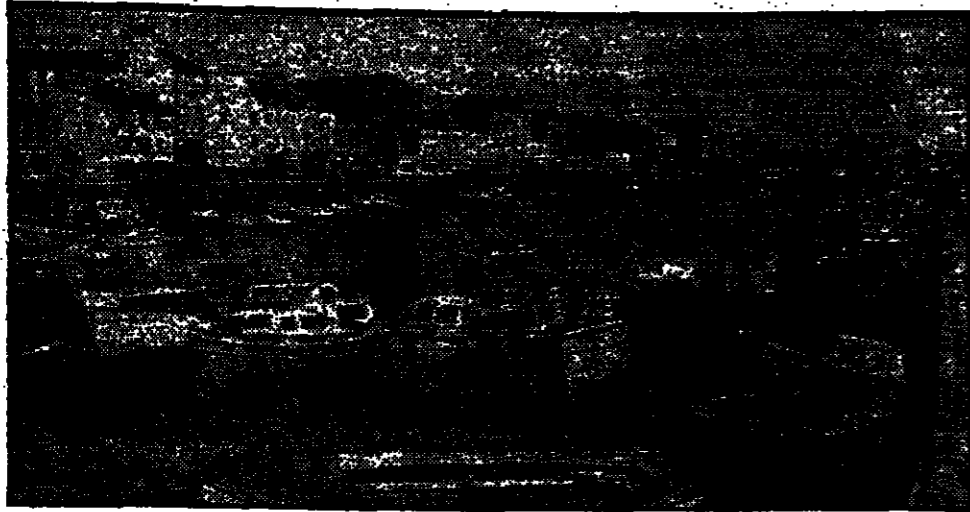
As Keith Kerruish says, Douglas is not going to metropolitan. But the signs of a strengthening, indeed, the property sector are there.

Stuart Alexander

ISLE OF MAN 5

Tourism

Search for a more profitable market



Douglas harbour (left) and a horse tram on the town's central promenade—but traditional tourist markets which sustained them have dwindled

TOURISM, the Isle of Man's third-largest industry and provider of 11 per cent of national income, appears to be in a state of profound change. The implications are important and promise not so much a readjustment to straitened circumstances but realignment into a more profitable kind of market.

Confidence among key people involved seems higher now than at any time in the recent past. It is not merely optimism. People are putting their money in, investing large sums in some cases. It is not the behaviour expected of an industry that is expected to be dying on its feet.

No one is expanding the island's capacity for total numbers. That is apparent from the fact that the number of summer visitors per bed available is roughly constant at 27, which means that the amount of accommodation is contracting with the falling market. But what is changing quite obviously is the quality of accommodation that the island is offering.

The Isle of Man has lost large numbers of visitors from its traditional working class centres in the North of England, with the switch increasingly to Spain and other Mediterranean centres in the last 25 years.

The island's boarding house economy has suffered accordingly, with this type of property now changing hands at poor prices, with few takers. The Isle of Man's isolation probably means a slow response to the trend, while at the same time, the relatively high cost of getting to the island has made it difficult to follow the example of English seaside resorts and attract day trippers or long weekenders in substantial numbers.

But the island does have a unique selling point. Simply by being an island with its own laws and ethos, it has the freedom to stage events that no mainland place can. The Tourist Trophy motor cycle races—held on a 374-mile road circuit round the island—are the most obvious example, but cycling festivals are another.

This year visitors for the TT fortnight in May-June were nearly 6 per cent up on last year at 12,240. Last week thousands of cyclists turned up for the increasingly popular Manx Cycle Week, the Milk Race winner among them.

Paul Gaskell of the Palace Hotel Group believes that tourism's future on the island lies in such special events, of which there are now 200 of varying sizes, many involving sporting events, including boxing and rugby league matches. The Palace, which is owned by the Clegg family trust, is in the vanguard of private sector investment and is backing its management's beliefs with real money.

It is spending \$2.5m to acquire and develop the Golf Links Hotel at Castletown. Just as important, the deal resulted in the rescue of the adjoining Castletown Links, in which the Palace Group now have an 80 per cent stake. Previously, fragmented ownership and disagreement had resulted in three holes being taken out of

play, so that some of the others had to be played twice to get in a full round.

The course is now back to its full complement, money is being spent on the facilities and high-quality suites have been created out of some of the hotel's larger rooms. Tournaments are already under way to attract golfers for short holidays and recent advertisements for a golf manager have brought in applicants from some senior figures in the game.

Mr Gaskell thinks it not modest to compare the potential to that of Gleneagles or The Belfry, headquarters of the Professional Golf Association near Sutton Coldfield, in the Midlands, which also has a good quality hotel at the centre of things.

Moreover, the Castletown course—one of seven on the island—is a true links one. A tournament designed to give US professionals links practice just before the British Open could be an important money earner and this is the sort of goal being aimed for.

This positive attitude is also reflected at the group's flagship establishment, the Palace Hotel in Douglas. This was for long the only accommodation anywhere near the standards expected by international business travellers, but in the past it often looked as though it was struggling to maintain them.

This encouraged high quality, but small-scale competition from Admiral House in Douglas and up-market apartments at the Cherry Orchard in Port Erin. The Palace's response has been increasingly apparent during the last two years.

"Executive" rooms, new furniture, better decor, and a new manager, Mr Paul Hewitt, who was attracted from hotel consultancy in London, are all part of the changes. So is the revamped grill room with its new chef, Mr Philip Atherton. The quality is excellent and total prices are very reasonable compared with London and Manchester.

More important for year-round performance, the Palace competes well with good island restaurants such as Boncompagni at Onchan, Las Rosette at Ballasalla and Molyneux's at Port Erin. Indeed, the island as a whole competes well when it comes to fresh fish cuisine. Some of the older hotels in Douglas are also investing. It may seem somewhat tardy to be now putting in suite bathroom facilities in all rooms—as is

happening at the Sefton—but for the Isle of Man this is a major move and something that both the Isle of Man Tourist Board and Chamber of Commerce think worth boasting about.

The Sefton has also invested in a health and leisure club, though not necessarily to offset the effects of over-indulgence in its lunchtime carvery, one of its best features for some years now.

"We are following the market upwards, not so much moving up-market," says Mr Mike Savage of the Tourist Board. Recent colour supplement advertising has reflected the type of holiday customer who is the new target.

So far, and after many years of continuous decline, overall figures are holding, with arrivals only 0.6 per cent down on 1985. Is the trend levelling out? Mr Savage says that it is too early to say whether rock bottom has been reached but the island is at least getting a feel for the size of its new tourism base and working out how to build on it with more confidence.

The special events could be the key, replacing the old summer trade, now more fickle and weather-dependent than ever, as the staple diet of the industry.

Ian Hamilton Fazey

Kipper industry

Success of the genuine article

FISH CONSERVATION is now thoroughly proving its worth to the Isle of Man where that traditional delicacy, the Manx Kipper, continues to thrive. This year's quota of herring taken from the island's 14,660 tonnes, up from the 1985 figure.

Herring become kippers when they are cured by exposure to smoke from a savoury mixture of oak and other hardwoods. They are a quite different kettle of fish to the bogus "kipper" produced simply by dipping

split herring in the food dye. Brown FK, a process banned on the island to ensure that all Manx kippers are genuine.

Restrictions of herring fishing in the North Sea during the 1970s brought away more kippers from the island's waters. The Manx Government started a "fishery" of herring to track down shoals and stocks were threatened as herring were overfished for barrelling during the spawning season in September.

It was a free-for-all, with 240 boats operating and up to 28,000 tonnes landed. Many of

us thought that stocks might never recover," says Mr Peter Canipa, senior partner in the island's largest curer, Deverau. Yet only 5 per cent of the peak plunder was actually needed to sustain the kipper industry.

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It was a free-for-all, with 240 boats operating and up to 28,000 tonnes landed. Many of

perature of 35 deg C. "How long it takes to cure a herring depends on the ambient humidity and how long the fish has been waiting to go into the kiln," he says. The usual time is between four and six hours.

During times of successive batches get shorter as the day progresses and they dry out slightly in the queue for the kiln.

Deverau can process about 250 tonnes of fish in each batch. When Mr Canipa has bought a full day's capacity at the morning auction on the Peel quay, he will work up to 22 hours overseeing the process himself observing the fish every 10 minutes and ensuring that the racks are turned in the kiln every half-hour.

He does this throughout the summer and puts his stamina down to a diet of fresh, raw kippers while the season lasts. As for quality, he has just realised the marketing value of printing the words "No artificial colouring or additives" across the boxes of kippers he exports widely.

The one piece of high technology he approves of is the microwave oven—in his view the finest cooker of kippers ever invented. For a quick pick-up, however, he recommends scraping uncooked kipper flesh into a bowl, adding a knob of butter, a squeeze of lemon, and one to three tablespoons of whisky. Mix into a paste and spread on hot buttered toast.

"You can only do that with a genuine kipper," Mr Canipa says proudly. It is also quite delicious.

I. H. F.



Peter Canipa: firm "no" to microprocessors

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Tuesday June 24 1986

Lack of will on air fares

PERHAPS THE best thing that can be said about yesterday's meeting of European air transport officials is that it took place in Paris. A long-standing joke holds that any meeting to discuss the future of European civil aviation is best held in New York or Washington. European air fares are so high, the argument runs, that it would be cheaper to fly everybody to the US than attempt to meet in any European city. The joke is a good one because there is so much truth in it. Everybody concerned with aviation in Europe knows that scheduled flights are much too expensive. What seems to be lacking is the political will to do much about it.

The European Court of Justice has done as much as it can by concluding last month that air transport is subject to the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome. The Paris summit, the commissioner responsible for competition, has followed this up by preparing a letter threatening the national airlines with legal action unless the member states make significant progress towards liberalisation of air transport. The airlines' longstanding practice of fixing fares, sharing in revenue and carving up capacity represent flagrant abuses of the competition rules.

Glaring omission

Mr Sutherland's letter, however, so far remains silent. EEC transport ministers last week successfully called the commission's bluff when they failed even to discuss its proposals for liberalisation. The irony is that these proposals are so modest: the commission is not by any stretch of the imagination proposing effective deregulation. Indeed, the Dutch in particular are far from happy with the soft-soapy approach being adopted by Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the commissioner responsible for transport. It remains to be seen whether the UK, now represented by Mr John Moore, the new Transport Secretary and a strong supporter of market forces, will seek to persuade Mr Clinton Davis to harden his attitude.

From the UK and Dutch standpoint, the commission's proposals have one glaring omission: they fail even to dis-

cuss the crucial question of route access. Experience in the US, and to a limited extent with the more liberal bilateral treaties recently negotiated by Britain, is that effective competition depends on the ability of new entrants to challenge incumbent airlines. The Paris-London route, for example, although still heavily regulated and subject to capacity sharing, has benefited from the presence of a second UK airline—British Caledonian.

Legal proceedings

The commission's proposals on fares and capacity are not exactly scintillating either. It endorses a system of discount "zones" within which airlines would be free to set fares. This does not allow for real competition: when the proposal was floated last year, British Airways pointed out that 50 out of 52 of its cheap European fares were already below the lower limit of the proposed deep discount. On capacity, the commission says 25 per cent of the seats on flights between member states should be reserved for each flag airline. But why have any limit on capacity, why not let the more efficient airline gain as much market share as it can?

The fact that the commission's far-from-inspiring liberalisation proposals look like being rejected by a majority of member states is a worrying measure of the EEC's inability to live up to its ideals of a free internal market. On economic grounds, the very least the EEC should be aiming for is the adoption throughout the Community of bilateral agreements as liberal as those negotiated between Britain and the Netherlands. Even though this would fall far short of real competition, it should be leagues ahead of the fractional loosening of controls which is all that France and West Germany seem prepared to support.

If no progress is made at the next meeting of transport ministers, the commission should hesitate to initiate what would be long and exhausting legal proceedings. Studies suggest European fares are up to twice as high as in the US. This is a burden on European business and consumers that the courts will have to lift, if the politicians lack the will.

Spain chooses continuity

THE RETURN of Mr Felipe Gonzalez and his Socialist Government for a second term of office in Sunday's general election is a good result both for Spain and for Spain's European partners.

Mr Gonzalez has not quite repeated his sweeping victory of 1982. Nevertheless he has obtained enough votes and won sufficient seats in parliament to demonstrate convincingly that he retains the nation's confidence. Spain can now look forward to four more years of pragmatic leadership under a strong government, sure in the knowledge that democracy has been further consolidated. For the European Community, the result will provide welcome continuity and should ensure Spain's ability to introduce the necessary legislation for full integration.

It never seemed on the cards that Mr Gonzalez would lose. Yet there was always the possibility, encouraged by the opinion polls, that the Socialists might end up as a minority government. Perhaps it was this prospect which made Spanish voters plump for continuity. Mr Gonzalez has hung onto much of the middle-of-the-road support, so decisive in his first victory.

Populist campaign

Significantly, the main opposition party, Mr Manuel Fraga's right-wing Coalition Popular, failed to make any inroads. Mr Gonzalez lost ground only to the former Prime Minister, Mr Adolfo Suarez, who fought an effective populist campaign with his centrist party, the CDS. On the left, the disillusioned socialist vote never materialised. The far left is now less strongly represented in parliament than at any time since Franco's death.

The opposition parties now have the chance to rethink their strategies and policies. Their campaign accusations of socialist arrogance in monopolising power will ring hollow if they cannot begin to offer credible alternatives. Mr Gonzalez for his part has some important issues to tackle in domestic and foreign policy. Negotiations are shortly due to begin with the US over the future of the American military presence in Spain. He will have to tread a fine balance between his own natural instinct to preserve

good relations with Washington and the need to appease anti-American sentiment in the country, articulated not least by Mr Suarez during the campaign. A commitment to reduce the US presence was Mr Gonzalez's sop to the anti-Nato lobby during the referendum earlier this year on continued membership of the alliance.

In this context, Mr Gonzalez must be careful that in negotiating a lower US military profile in Spain he does not create the impression among his fellow countrymen that he is diluting any further his support for Nato. As it is, he is insisting on an arrangement whereby Spain stays outside the alliance's military structure and remains neutral in handling nuclear weapons.

Basque problem

At home the principal political concern must now be to handle the Basque problem. The possibility, encouraged by the resurgence of the radical grouping, Herri Batasuna, which acts as a political front for the militant separatist organisation Eta. This is a disturbing phenomenon since it is also accompanied by a renewed campaign of violence conducted by Eta. Mr Gonzalez had been relying on the gradual isolation of Eta supporters and a delicate process of closer co-operation with the conservative Basque national party, the PNV. He has no option but to continue with this policy, and the PNV must be made aware that it would be irresponsible if they were to become more radical themselves to protect their flank.

On economic matters, Mr Gonzalez must resist the temptation to renege too early. He is under pressure to reward the loyal socialist vote in the trade unions whose members have borne the brunt of four years' austerity. Inflation remains above the European average, the public sector deficit is still high, and the economy has yet to record the full impact of the introduction of VAT. This January, a dash for growth would aggravate the difficult problems of adjustment which Spain now faces in integrating its economy with that of the EEC. This process of integration is rightly Mr Gonzalez's main objective. He has renewed political and moral authority to achieve it.

WHAT BEGAN as an arcane subject of interest only to the more cerebral corporate tax advisers is now leading to the most serious taxation dispute between Britain and America since the Boston tea party.

The issue of unitary tax, after festering for decades in the western states of the US, is coming to a head. The world's multinational corporations—the main targets of unitary tax—have mobilised the active support of their national politicians including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the UK Prime Minister.

As a result, the dispute is now in danger of spilling over to a variety of other sensitive issues: the balance of US state and federal rights, trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific trade relations and the structure of tax treaties that has been woven over the last 40 years.

The battle has increasingly drawn in governments. On one side, are western countries led by the UK and Japan, on the other, those US states which support a unitary tax and their potential Third World converts. In the middle is the US federal government, seeking to reconcile its support for state taxation rights with the protests of its trading partners.

At the heart of the dispute is the demagoguery of the multinational octopus, manipulating its accounts to switch its profits out of high-tax countries into tax havens. The tighter integration of the production and marketing operations of multinationals, combined with the growth of international trade, has multiplied the possibilities for confusing tax auditors.

The unitary method of assessing corporation tax was devised as an unconventional way of tackling multinational tax avoidance. It was first applied in the 1930s to combat tax avoidance by the Hollywood film industry. Companies would make their films in California and sell them at artificially low prices to distribution companies in Nevada which were subsidiaries of the same group. The result was that the company, in high-tax California, could declare a loss leaving the company in tax-free Nevada free to accumulate large profits.

The response of most tax agencies to this type of behaviour is to insist that all such transactions be priced on an arm's-length basis, as if they were separate companies under separate ownership. But the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) of California followed a different approach. It decided to treat the Californian and Nevada subsidiaries as a single "unitary" company whose joint profits were a legitimate target of taxation. The share of the profits taxable in the proportion of the company's operations in California business activities. The proportion is calculated as the average of the ratios of a company's sales, real estate and payroll within a state to their worldwide totals.

Initially, the formula was applied only to US-based multinationals but over the past 20 years it has been extended to foreign-based ones. Ironically, the extension followed a court ruling in favour of an oil company which wished to be taxed

on a unitary basis. At present about a third of companies, mainly smaller ones, pay less tax by being assessed on a unitary basis.

It was another decision of the US Supreme Court three years ago, upholding the right to tax on a unitary basis, that turned unitary tax into an international political issue. Since then a steady stream of government ministerial diplomats and civil servants have descended on the Californian state legislature in Sacramento, abandoning the niceties of diplomatic protocol which normally limit their activity to sovereign states. There they

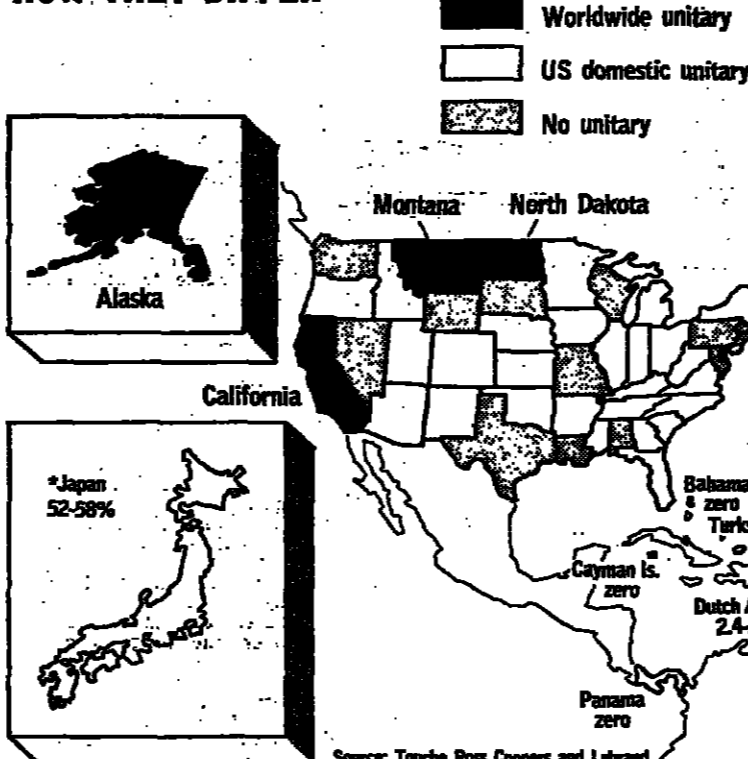
revenue of \$4bn, compounds the difficulties of the supporters of repeal.

The faltering progress in Sacramento over the last three years is mirrored in Washington. There, a legislative initiative by the US federal government to force the state governments to abandon worldwide unitary tax, although not on the wholly US subsidiaries of multinationals, has become bogged down by legislative procedure and by constitutional issues concerning state taxation rights.

Meanwhile the clock is ticking away. A clause in the UK Finance Act last year may

Clive Wolman looks at a dispute which is threatening to set Britain and Japan against the US

CORPORATE TAX REGIMES AND HOW THEY DIFFER



follow a well-beaten track in and out of the offices of the same, rather jaded politicians and officials, in and out of the corridors of the Capitol building with whippers.

In their wake come the lobbyists, the peace- and the political campaign contributors. The unitary tax industry is so profitable for politicians and lobbyists, say some observers, that the politicians cannot afford to say it by voting through reforms.

A series of legislative initiatives, all of which narrowly fail, is the best way of keeping the issue on the boil and so swelling their political funds. Moves to repeal unitary tax for foreign but not US corporations are currently floundering because of legislative attempts to impose a pre-condition that the companies must withdraw from South Africa. Estimates that unitary tax will give California an extra \$800m this year out of total corporation tax

force the Government to take retaliatory action against the UK subsidiaries of Californian-based companies, or possibly even companies with significant sales in California. The trigger would be the failure to repeal unitary tax by the end of this year. The strong pressure from MPs, reinforced by the visit last week of an all-party Parliamentary delegation to Washington on this issue, will make it difficult for the Government to delay invoking the clause any longer.

The move would deny a tax credit on the dividends paid by UK subsidiaries to their US parents at a cost of up to \$400m and in breach of the US-UK taxation treaty. It throws up the risk of retaliatory moves by the US to subject the profits of US-owned subsidiaries in the US to double taxation, as several bills before the US Senate are now threatening.

The inequity of double taxation has always been the multinationals' main objection

Petroleum, have joined the lobbying campaign against unitary tax because of the compliance costs it imposes, even though it means they pay less tax than under a separate accounting method.

To establish that the multinational is sufficiently integrated to be taxed on a unitary basis, the Californian FTB will ask questions covering the entire range of the company's operations over many years. They can include anything from common recruitment policies and the interchange of staff between subsidiaries to their use of common data bases.

Once a group is deemed unitary, it has to recalculate all its profits around the world to conform to US accounting standards. Requests then might follow for subsidiary information on property values, payrolls in different countries and the movement of exchange rates.

Mr Richard Genetelli, US states tax specialist at accountants Coopers and Lybrand, believes that the hostility to unitary tax arises largely because of its arbitrariness and its conflict with the corporation tax rules incorporated in nearly all tax treaties. Other states such as Michigan impose harsher taxes which do not arouse hostility because they are seen as equitable, he says.

If the opposition of the multinationals to unitary tax goes well beyond its effect on their profits, so does the commitment of the Franchise Tax Board, Arm's length pricing, it believes, is an outdated fiction.

Revenue. They fail to pick up adequate information on companies' transfer pricing policies which would be useful both to themselves and other agencies.

Mr Miller points out that the Inland Revenue has only about 15 specialists in transfer pricing and has never taken any company to court over the issue. By contrast, the US Federal Internal Revenue Service has nearly 400 transfer price specialists.

The Inland Revenue says the comparison is misleading because it handles oil taxation separately and gives its district inspectors more responsibility. Revenue officials also believe that the abuse of tax havens and transfer price manipulation is declining. They say they are paying more attention at present to the investigation of different corporate residence requirements which can allow a company to claim tax relief twice over on the same interest.

On this issue, however, the UK is more the odd-man-out than California. Other tax agencies have been broadening the focus of their transfer pricing investigations beyond tax havens. A multinational can save tens of millions of dollars by shifting profits from, say, the US, where the federal corporate tax rate is 46 per cent, to the UK where the rate is 35 per cent, and by exploiting differences in accounting treatment.

The IRS, Revenue Canada and the Japanese National Tax Agency have recently taken the offensive against multinationals with a series of well-publicised investigations. Their auditors can install themselves for months in corporate headquarters, scrutinising mountains of internal memos and other documents, a practice which is almost unheard of in the UK.

As a result, many British multinationals find they are challenged more frequently in North America, where their operations are smaller, than back home.

The Inland Revenue believes that its gentler approach, which usually relies on an economic analysis of a multinational's operations, not only imposes lower compliance costs on business but is just as effective in stopping tax avoidance as an IRS-style scrutiny of thousands of individual transactions.

But the very cost-effectiveness of the Inland Revenue's international corporate investigations suggests the loss of a large amount of tax. In 1984-85, the department brought in 50 times its costs in additional tax. By contrast, the ratio for the investigators of moonlighting was only about six to one.

Sadly for the UK, despite its low tax rates and benign enforcement regime, many US multinationals still view it as a high tax country. By contrast, California, whose GDP is larger than the UK's on some measures, continues to attract strong inward investment although some multinationals have switched their investments to other American states.

According to Mr Jim Joyce, tax director of Castle and Cook, a large US food processing company: "None of our threats against California shakes the belief that this is an economy which calls the shots."

Sears buys more Millett

A family saga to rival Dillies or Dynasty took a new twist yesterday when Alan Millett, chairman of the Millett Leisure Shops chain, sold his 122 outlets to the Sears group which has over 4,500 retail shops.

The deal not only makes Millett a substantial multimillionaire on paper but also brings under Sears' roof another of the rival Millett chains that operate throughout the UK. Millett shops, which now provide leisure and industrial clothing as well as camping equipment, were started at the turn of the century. But the four sons of the founder each went their separate ways creating their own retail chains under the same name and selling roughly the same type of merchandise.

Sears acquired one of these chains a few years ago and yesterday added another, although there still remain a number of other Millett's around the country run by various branches of the family who appear unwilling to give up their independence.

One problem for Sears is that the Millett's it took over yesterday has two "t's" in its name, while its existing chain has only one "t"—a legacy of some of the family feuding of the past. Geoffrey Maitland-Smith, Sears chairman, was decisive yesterday about what to do with one "t" too many. "We'll spell it with one 't'," he told me. "It makes the shop fronts cheaper."

Oklahoma OK

As they are saying at merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell: "Oklahoma OK." Two of Morgan Grenfell's men, Lord Pennock and Sir Peter Carey, former Department of Industry permanent secretary, have just signed up the American state as their latest client.

The Oklahoma operation is headed by State Governor George Nigh, who is in London to talk with Morgan Grenfell after a mission to develop oil

Men and Matters



Sorry I'm late—the Treasury. Insisted I came by train.

and gas export markets in China and India.

Oklahoma is hungry for overseas investment and is looking to Morgan Grenfell to point the way to it from the UK and Europe. Nigh commissioned a report from Lord Pennock and Carey and obviously liked its recommendations. He said: "We are aware of the intensity of competition for investment and we have decided that it would be appropriate to appoint a pre-eminent merchant bank to assist us in achieving this object."

How well do Pennock and Carey know Oklahoma? Morgan Grenfell said yesterday: "Lord Pennock has been there, but not Sir Peter. But he will be spending some time there in the near future."

Carey has been an executive director of Morgan Grenfell since September, 1983, a few months after he retired from his government post at the age of 60.

Benign bookies

An English summer does strange things to people, bookmakers included. Hill's decided after the England-Argentina World Cup match to pay back money to losing punters—all those who put their money on a draw.

"We believe with the Sports Minister that it was a moral draw after that hand-ball goal by Maradona," says Hill's chairman, Shepp. "Of course, this is a one-off move. We don't want anyone to regard it as a precedent." How much they will pay back isn't clear yet, as the figures are not yet in from 90 betting shops, but it will be well into five figures. For punters still interested, Hill's odds for the last four are Argentina 6-4, France 7-4, West Germany 4-1, Belgium 6-1.

Royal rage

Though the monarchy is long gone, monarchists are still not without influence in France.

The Duke of Anjou, main descendant of the Bourbon kings and a figure of some veneration among royalists, has just successfully waded into a controversy over the ministry of culture's over-republican policies of theatrical support.

After protests from the Duke—and a few rowdy scenes to which the police were called—a play being staged in the Chapel of Repentance of Louis XVI in Paris's 6th arrondissement has been taken off.

The Duke presides every year at a solemn mass in the chapel in memory of Louis's death on the guillotine in 1793—and protested that his choice as a stage for a modern play of family life with an incestuous father and nymphomaniac mother was "degrading."

Even worse, in the Duke's eyes, was the fact that the play

was subsidised by the government as part of the policies of Jack Lang, flamboyant Minister of Culture in the previous Socialist administration.

Liberal right-winger, Francois Leotard, Lang's successor in the Chirac government, had already run into flak over his decision to allow completion of a Lang-backed project under which the courtyard of the former Royal Palace is being littered with black and white striped pillars.

Though the play has been stopped, the Duke says that the chapel has been profaned, and monarchists will gather there next month for a special mass in reparation.

Flying fish

Fish have never stirred quite the same zeal in animal liberationists as, say, deer or foxes.

Things may be changing. A recent Canary Pacific advertisement portrayed a leaping salmon, noting that the next time this particular fish "flew," it would be as the filling in a sandwich aboard one of the airline's flights.

The intended connotation of freshness was lost on one man who wrote to the Advertising Standards Authority, complaining that the ad was "offensive to fish." The ASA smartly replied that such an offence was outside its remit.

But the ASA is believed to be devoting further investigative time to another complaint concerning the same ad—that the fresh salmon advertised was not in fact available on every flight.

A reader, returning to England from the US, used his credit card to buy duty-free goods aboard the Richard Branson-owned aircraft.

He has since had some difficulty explaining to his wife why his credit statement records a charge of £28.50 for "Virgin in flight S. Crowley."

THE HONGKONG HILTON. WE'VE GONE THROUGH SOME SPARKLING CHANGES.

The sparkling changes at the Hongkong Hilton are crystal clear. From the lighting fixtures in the Main Lobby to the table settings in the Grill, the Hilton has taken on a quiet elegance.



Over the past year, the Hilton has spent \$8 million to create its new look. The renovation, the most extensive in the hotel's 22-year history, has included 800 guest rooms (not a bed has been left unturned), the function rooms, the Main Lobby, the Grill and The Den. In addition, there are two new Executive Floors and a splendid Executive Lounge.

These are just some of the sparkling changes which have taken place at the Hilton. And they are here, waiting for all to see.

For reservations call your travel agent, any Hilton International hotel or Hilton Reservation Service in London 031 7767 and elsewhere in the UK. Freephone 2224.

HONGKONG HILTON

Observer

Letters to the Editor

The Tories, South Africa and sanctions

From Sir Ralph Bateman.

Sir, — I think that the leader "The Tories and South Africa" (June 16) states the situation both incorrectly and unhelpfully.

You say "The questions are becoming: what sanctions, for what purpose and how should they be conducted?" In my opinion these are not the correct questions.

We should ask "What policy of sanctions is likely to bring about the changes which we desire to see in South Africa without unacceptable sacrifices

in South Africa, in other countries, in the continent of Africa and in the rest of the world?"

One of the policies to be considered is one of partial or total sanctions. In my view either partial or total sanctions would not meet the requirements of the question because they would inflict unacceptable sacrifices and they would not succeed. There can be no doubt that South Africa has already prepared itself to meet sanctions and that it is ready to accept a substantial fall in the standard of living for all sections of its

community rather than give way; meanwhile we would see chaos and disaster throughout the African continent.

We initiated a policy of sanctions against Rhodesia primarily to hurt Ian Smith. Surely all experience has taught us not to repeat the same error against Botha.

It is extremely difficult to find a policy which will bring about, or help bring about, the end of the detestable system of apartheid in South Africa, but that is no reason for trying a policy which cannot succeed.

We cannot avoid responsibility for our actions; are we prepared to accept the terrible consequences which are sure to follow a policy of sanctions?

There is a great danger of this becoming just a political argument whereas it should be completely outside party politics if there is to be any hope of finding an acceptable solution.

(Sir) Ralph Bateman,
2 Bollen Court,
Macclesfield Road,
Wilmot, Cheshire.

The problem of dumping

From the Chairman,
British Clothing Industry
Association.

Sir,—There has recently been much evidence and detailed comment in your columns on the problems of dumping and how the EEC attempts to deal with it.

This debate has illustrated not the complexity of the subject, but also how exceedingly difficult it is in practice to bring a successful anti-dumping action. While it may appear to be blindingly obvious that the export price of a product is less than its domestic price, it may be impossible to gather sufficient evidence of that domestic price to satisfy the EEC Commission. Equally, while there can be no doubt that such an export price is causing damage to EEC industry, stringent conditions

have to be met in order to have that material injury taken place.

Even if one does establish dumping to the satisfaction of the EEC Commission, the time that will have elapsed from the opening of a case to its conclusion will have meant such a degree of material injury that companies may have stopped production or even gone out of business.

It should surely be a major priority of the EEC in approaching the new Gatt round to examine the whole issue of unfair trading practices—and dumping is but one of them—and to devise a system of simple and speedy measures to deal with them. If this is not done, countries will continue to adopt other safeguard mechanisms. Norman Sussman,
7, Swallow Place, W1.

Financial Services Bill

From Mr G. Ratcliffe

Sir,—I find it appalling that a Bill that is supposedly to protect the consumer is about to go on the statute book without the vital ingredient necessary to do the real job of consumer protection.

Michael Howard, the Minister that he did not intend that a level of competence from all who derive income, in whole or in part, from the arrangement of life assurance and pension schemes. His reason is pressure from banks and building societies. It was my understanding from the same Minister that he did not intend that this Bill would create cosy cartels and that he would not yield to "vested interest pressures".

The Minister, having given in to the "vested interests", has really set the scene for the continuance of poor/bad advice to the consumer and, in saying that "some action will be taken after this poor/bad advice has been taken by the client who will have lost value. I think something about closing stable doors is appropriate. I feel that it is time the consumer had a say, otherwise we will have yet another Act of Parliament which will not do the job intended, but simply increase the costs to the consumer it was hoped to protect.

In short, the whole of the life assurance and pensions industry is legislated for already, i.e. investments, policy conditions, methods of account-

ing in balance sheets, etc. The only item which really needs attention is to ensure that the persons explaining the various contracts on offer are competent to do so and that if they do not do so honestly, then their livelihood should be at risk. The only way in which to do this is by registration/licensing, call it what you will, so long as the consumer has real protection.

No wonder the "vested interests" are opposing the registration/licensing. If this was to be introduced, it would mean that the persons explaining the contracts to the consumer in much more depth than they do now. They would not have as much freedom and could always blame the employee as they do now.

If the Minister still insists on ignoring the real issue, then I would hope to see the consumer organisations making representations along the lines suggested. In fact I am most surprised we have not heard from them before — maybe they have come under the influence of vested interests as well. As one who has dealt with complaints from consumers on life assurance and pensions I would simply add that the majority of these complaints have arisen out of the incompetence and poor training of the person who made the sale in the first place.

George Ratcliffe,
6 Brooklands Road,
Brooklands, Sale, Cheshire.

Strengthening the regions

From Mr P. Ford

Sir,—Your article of June 18 concerning the regions struck several chords with those of us based in Yorkshire. Excluding Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, areas outside London and the south east have little political clout. Investment pours into the south east. The Channel Tunnel, Canary Wharf and Stansted Airport are recent examples, but each project creates the arguments in favour of the next one. Our MPs seem powerless to do much to help constituency members and debating national issues, the

economic health of the regions gets little attention.

It cannot be healthy for our country to have a disproportionate corner with the rest in relative decline. Countries like the United States, Germany and Switzerland organise their affairs better and ensure that the wealth of the country is more evenly spread. They have the political mechanisms to promote this in the form of decentralised government.

P. Ford,
(Immediate Past President),
Sheffield Chamber of Commerce,
Commerce House, Earl Street,
Sheffield.

Commercial property values

From Mr M. Oakeshott.

Sir,—Lex's note on British Land (June 19) says "the latest findings suggest that unfashionable older buildings are losing their value at an alarming rate." Quite the reverse — the latest findings, by which presumably Lex means the Calus research report on depreciation of commercial property, compare professional property of high-yielding property have known for some time: the alarming falls in value come in the first few years of the life of the fashionable "prime" new office blocks and industrial estates which the institutions have been developing or buying at

dangerously low yields.

Like a car, offices and industrial suffer the worst depreciation in their first five or 10 years; but unlike a car, many older industrial buildings, in particular, in the right locations throughout the country, are perfectly serviceable with very modest refurbishment expenditure for many decades, and provide an excellent combination of high yield and satisfactory rental growth off a low base. I bought several after the alarming falls in value have happened.

Matthew A. Oakeshott,
Audrey Investments,
10-12, Cork St., W1.

Three years of French-German relationship

From the Secretary,
Association pour Défendre
la Mémoire du Maréchal Pétain.

Sir,—I refer to the article on Marshal Pétain (April 26) by David Marsh. Since the British are champions of fair play, I would like to refute certain affirmations which could cause your readers to make errors of judgment.

You say that the Marshal led the French "in servitude and surrender." In fact, there was no capitulation. The French army did not surrender to the enemy in 1940 in the true sense of the word. It demanded and obtained an armistice — a negotiated suspension of arms. "Capitulation" is an act of ignominy: "armistice" is a convention under which bel-

ligerents decide to suspend hostilities. The Marshal did not lead his compatriots in servitude. At the liberation in 1944, France was structured, strengthened and upright. Regional and departmental commissioners in the provisional government found official services organised and in activity.

If Pétain had allowed his country to fall into servitude, why did he receive a letter from Ribbentrop, written on November 29 1943, who said: "When one looks at the last three years of the French-German relationship, one cannot contest that hopes (of fruitful collaboration between the two countries) have been only partly realised and that

measures taken (by the Marshal), unhappily, too often resulted in collaboration being made more difficult."

How could you claim that "the government of Vichy actively aided the Germans to round up, deport and kill tens of thousands of French and foreign Jews" when the occupiers themselves indirectly paid homage, through their severe and terrifying warnings on the subject, to the patriotic and humane reactions of the French government?

In his recent book, "Le Role de Vichy dans la solution finale de la question juive," Serge Karlfeldt quotes SS Obersturmführer Schmidt writing on August 24 1943 that "the attitude of the French practically

cancelled out dispositions (we had) made."

The head of the SS, Hagen, confirmed the next day that "refusal of the law, already signed by Laval, triggered extreme surprise." Hagen also wrote to his superiors on August 31 1943 that "another department of the Justice Ministry has been wound up because it was working with too much sympathy for the Jews and was too slow in taking away their nationality."

I would like to confirm that our association is rigorously political and that, in our ranks, are to be found people of all backgrounds, confession and personal inclinations. René Mingnot,
6, Rue de Marengo, 75001 Paris.

Future employment trends

From the Associate Director,
Institute of Manpower Studies.

Sir,—Your leader (June 16) about the IMS study of future employment trends, misrepresents the basic assumption underlying the forecasts. The study focused on employers' plans and expectations regarding employment over the period to 1990 together with the underlying causes, be they due to changed working methods, the introduction of new technologies or changed market conditions. In so far as the study sets out past

trends, this is to show how they compare with their historical counterparts. In some cases, employment trends may be a continuation of the past, in others they see a marked change. The report itself sets out the reasons for such assessments, and shows that the national picture is clearly not simply an extrapolation of the past.

Richard Pearson,
Maxwell Building,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton.

OPEC

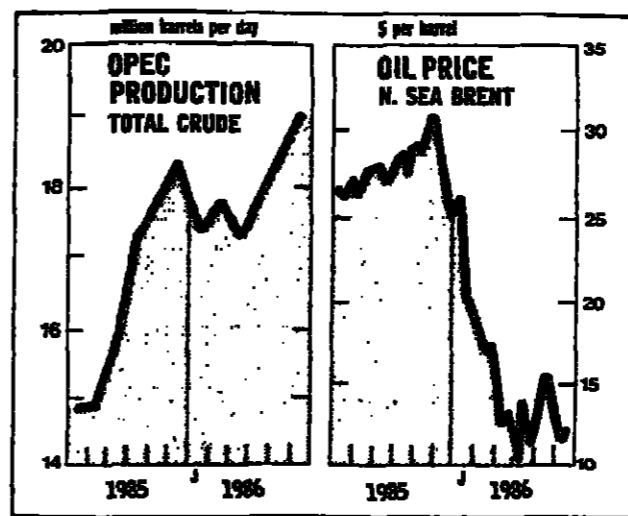
The elusive consensus

By Francisco R. Parry

OPEC MEETS in Brioni, Yugoslavia, today to see what it can do about raising and stabilising oil prices, preferably with the help of some key non-OPEC producers. The prospects for agreement on effective measures are dim, and this is very curious indeed, because for the first time in many years (if not ever) there are few exceptions to the general agreement both within producing and consuming countries, in OECD and OPEC, that a price of between \$15 and \$20 per barrel over a substantial period of time would be about right.

Within OPEC, the majority is now prepared to accept this as a reasonable goal. Certainly the Saudis are intent on it, provided they get their share of the market. Ultimately, what they are after is growth for the market as a whole; what has driven them to their present corner is the fact that at \$27 to \$30 per barrel (a line held more or less firm by them for several years), the market kept on shrinking despite perennial promises of jam tomorrow. Opposition in OPEC is pretty much confined to three members (Algeria, Libya and Iran) who prefer to take a quarter of a loaf under protest rather than agree to half a loaf forever. But in any event the three have not in the past been noted for their assiduity in observing quotas, and consequently their dissent to any scheme put forward by the majority might not be regarded as essential.

In the United States, the number of drilling rigs active has dropped below 900 (compared with over 2,000 two years ago) and President Reagan's delight at seeing the Soviet Union's export earnings from the West slashed 50 per cent by the fall in oil prices must surely be tempered by concern over the longer-term outlook for domestic supplies and the plight of the US oil industry. Other important producers, not all of whom are quite as over-optimistic as the Saudis, will face budgetary difficulties of varying severity, and the debt-ridden ones are well and truly trapped between a rock and a hard place. Of perhaps even greater importance, because they are more numerous and because their interests might seem to lie unequivocally with the lowest possible prices, are the major net importing countries. They are still basking in the unexpected sunshine of lower oil prices, but do not now want



even lower ones to over-stimulate demand and depress long-term investment in new supplies: that is a recipe for another price-crunch down the road.

Why then is OPEC unable to exploit this remarkable convergence of interests where nearly all are for once agreed on the desirability of a certain price level? Part of the answer is the need for more time between perception and action; part of it is ideology in the US and Britain tending to gum up the thought-process; but an important part is that OPEC is rushing up the wrong track.

The organisation can either fix production levels and let price find its own level (then perhaps try some fine-tuning); or it can fix price and let production find its own level. Ever since price stopped rising spontaneously in response to market demand (say around the beginning of 1981), OPEC has tried the latter system: it fixed price, let non-OPEC production surge ahead and overall demand find its own level. The fact that there were production controls and quotas tended to create the mistaken impression that overall OPEC production was being limited; it wasn't. The quotas were merely a mechanism for sharing out the residual world demand, left over after non-OPEC production had been met. OPEC had eaten its fill, and were necessary to correct anomalies that arose from time to time when some member countries got their price differentials wrong (one or two became masters of mistiming on this).

The system broke down because the price was too high,

not because it was a bad system. The fuel oil market was virtually assassinated (demand in the OECD area dropped by 4m barrels per day or almost half between 1979 and 1984) and demand for most other products declined slightly. At the same time, there was a massive increase in non-OPEC supplies of oil and other forms of energy, encouraged by the OPEC price-umbrella. To cap it all, most member countries left Saudi Arabia alone to carry the burden of price-maintenance and production cut of last resort.

The price has now come down, perhaps a bit too much, and threatens to go down further as competitive network deals—contracts where the price of crude is tied to spot product prices in the markets—back into a downward spiral of spot product prices. OPEC now seeks to remedy this by switching from price controls to production controls—by limiting its own production and persuading non-OPEC producers to limit theirs.

Limiting production of a commodity for which short-term demand is notoriously inelastic is a mug's game. In a market where no one even knows what happened two months ago, demand would have to be estimated with some precision over the next few months. In practice, the ceiling set on production levels would either be too high, in which case the price would fall further; or too low, in which case the price would shoot out of control again. And the unpredictability of the effect of quarterly or semi-annual production limits is likely to

make stock changes a destabilising factor, as companies de-stock in anticipation of a price decrease (making the decrease worse), or stock up in anticipation of a price increase (making the increase worse). Trying to calibrate world-wide production to a desired price level is a waste of time, and the sooner OPEC gives it up, the better.

Instead, OPEC should now return to its price-fixing role, at the lower level (somewhere between \$15 and \$20 per barrel), and with the proviso that Saudi Arabia not be left alone to do all the work (a role it won't accept any more anyway). Then it should simply wait and see for a year or so whether the price decrease does in fact stimulate demand (it should certainly ignore the last two months of high lifelines—which are probably destabilising stock movements). In its price-fixing role, OPEC should set a base price backed up by internal quotas which would act as a safety net for those who price their differentials too high. Some new ingredients could be added to the mixture as before: for example, the base price could be some composite or average crude to de-link it from a specific crude which involves, inter alia, questions of national sovereignty over price as well as other difficulties. In addition, quotas could be set as a percentage of overall OPEC output with errors carried over for later retro-active adjustment. OPEC's growing production of natural gas liquids should also be brought into the net. But, regardless of minor improvements, the essential lesson to be learned is that a past over-dose should not deflect OPEC from judicious use of the medicine in the future.

Paradoxically, price fixing offers OPEC a slightly better chance of influencing non-OPEC to exercise some self-restraint in production than does a production limitation system. Price-fixing has the great advantage of showing almost immediately that OPEC can deliver the goods (a condition on which non-OPEC would insist before it co-operates); OPEC should also at the same time deliver a few harsh reminders that non-OPEC helped bring down the price last time through its lack of restraint, with obvious lessons for the future.

The author is former secretary general of OPEC and is now managing director of Energy Economics Research Ltd.

TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP GENERATES SOME STRONG OPINIONS. WE THINK THESE ARE WORTH READING.

"Where a pursuit is lawful... there can be no objection in principle to the sponsorship of sport from any sources."

The freedom of sport and sportspeople to determine these questions for themselves must be safeguarded."

Committee of Enquiry into Sports Sponsorship
—The Howell Report.

"For over 20 years, major professional golf tournaments have had the benefit of outstanding sponsorship from tobacco companies."

We feel the game has been well served by tobacco, whose support is something we very much wish to have the opportunity and choice to see continuing."

Ken Schofield, Executive Director,
Professional Golfers Association European Tour.

"Our aim was to ensure that sport continues to enjoy the sponsorship of tobacco companies, which had been so important to some particular sports... I am satisfied that the agreements... have been successful. The co-operation, which I receive from all the tobacco interests, helps to ensure that both the letter and the spirit of the Government's voluntary agreement is upheld."

...Everybody should understand that we

believe in the effectiveness of the Government's voluntary agreement with the tobacco interests which sponsor sporting events."

Neil Macfarlane, MP
Minister for Sport, 1981-1985.

"The great advantage with tobacco companies is that they are loyal to their sports. When cricket was on the wane, it was tobacco sponsorship that revived it and brought it back to public attention: they did a superb job."

Peter Lawson, Secretary,
Central Council for Physical Recreation.

"[Of tobacco sponsorship]... It is none of the Government's business to interfere in what is a matter of individual choice."

The Daily Telegraph Leader
7th June 1986

"We are perfectly happy to accept cigarette sponsorship because we believe in freedom of choice for adults."

Besides I don't believe anybody will start smoking simply because a tobacco manufacturer has sponsored a race or rally."

Peter Cooper, Chief Executive,
RAC Motor Sports Association.

- * Over 60 sports have benefited from tobacco sponsorship over the past 25 years.
- * Sports need sponsorship and want the freedom to be able to choose a sponsor.
- * In 25 years there is no evidence that sponsorship has encouraged smoking.
- * Tobacco sponsorship is severely restricted by voluntary agreements, which work well and will continue to do so.

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SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

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May offers \$2.7bn in share-swap bid for Associated

BY PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

MAY Department Stores has offered to acquire Associated Dry Goods, another major US department store owner, in a share-swap deal worth \$2.7bn. The transaction, if completed, would create one of the largest US retail groups and continue a consolidated trend within the industry.

May, the nation's third largest department store operator, and Associated, the fourth largest and owner of the Lord & Taylor and J.W. Robinson chains, would have combined annual sales of \$9.5bn - almost the same as industry leader Federated Department Stores.

The proposed merger, detailed in a letter from Mr. David Farrell, chairman and chief executive of May, to Mr. Joseph Johnson, his counterpart at Associated, would follow other dramatic recent changes in the US retailing sector, including the sale last week of 11 Gimbel stores and six Ohrbach stores, all on the east coast.

In his letter, Mr. Farrell proposed to swap May stock worth \$66 for each of Associated's 37.5m outstanding common shares. In addition May offered stock valued at \$211.2 for each of Associated's 1.5m cumulative convertible preferred shares. The number of May shares involved in the transaction would depend on market prices when a merger agreement is reached.

Yesterday, in the immediate wake of the takeover proposal, Associated's share price jumped by \$18.50 a share to \$64.50 on very heavy trading volume while May's stock slipped 34¢ to \$82 1/4 a share.

Associated said the May proposal was unsolicited. However, Mr. Farrell noted in his letter that over the past two years the two chief executives have had "several conversations" regarding a possible business merger. Associated's board was due to consider the proposal, described by Mr. Johnson as a "conditional invitation to negotiate," at a meeting yesterday.

New York-based Associated has 440 retail stores including the Lord & Taylor, J.W. Robinson, Loebmann's and Caldor chains. May, which is based in St Louis, has 145 department stores in 15 states, including the May and Hecht's chains, together with more than 1,800 shoe shops in 30 states. It recently acquired four Gimbel stores from the Gimbel brothers and has made no secret of its expansion plans.

Last week, May told its shareholders that it plans to spend \$2bn by 1990 to open a number of new stores. In its latest fiscal year, May produced \$235m in profits on sales of \$3.03bn, while Associated had net earnings of \$118.7m on revenues of \$4.39bn.

BfG may float shares to firm capital base

BY DAVID BROWN IN FRANKFURT

BANK für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG), the bank owned by the West German trade union movement, has moved closer to deciding on a stock market flotation to strengthen its capital base.

But Mr. Thomas Wegscheider, BfG's chief executive, said it was too early to discuss details and stressed that other options, including a capital injection from the bank's owners, are also still under discussion.

He added that BfG will have to broaden its capital base by the end of 1987, under newly-tightened German capital-to-lending ratio requirements.

The bank also announced an upturn in the early part of this year, with operating profits ahead by 20 per cent from the relatively low level in the first four months of 1985. The management expects satisfactory results this year, based on the rise of 8.4 per cent in customer credit demand through to the end of May.

BfG's group assets reached DM 63.88bn (\$28.4bn) last year, while 1985 partial operating profits rose by 5 per cent to DM 315m.

The interest rate surplus climbed by a strong 7.2 per cent to DM 881m, while commissions income from services advanced by 10 per cent to DM 182m.

The bank decided, however, to increase its loan loss provisions by DM 52m to DM 223.97m.

BfG paid DM 20m into reserves compared with DM 130m last year, and a DM 80m dividend (the first in five years) to BGAG, the holding company for German trades union interests.

The group's 1985 published net profit declined from DM 145.4m to DM 35.2m.

Exchange rate hits Roussel-Uclaf profits

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

ROUSSEL-UCCLAF, the French pharmaceutical group owned 54.5 per cent by Hoechst of West Germany, said the lower dollar exchange rate is likely to cut group profits by 15 per cent this year compared with 1985.

Last year, the group boosted consolidated net earnings by 15 per cent to FF 518m (\$72m). It stressed the forecast was made on the basis of the franc/dollar rate at the beginning of June.

The company reported a 33 per cent fall in first-quarter group net profits to FF 116m from FF 173m in the first three months of 1985. Sales fell 11 per cent in the first

quarter to FF 2.91bn from FF 3.27bn.

Roussel-Uclaf has registered sharp increases in profits and has been a star performer on the Paris stock market in recent years, above all because of the favourable impact on its export oriented business of the fall of the franc against the dollar.

Apart from the fall in the dollar in the first quarter, the company said its results this year were affected by the continued price freeze for pharmaceutical products in France. Insecticide sales were less favourable than last year.

Kodak raises biotechnology stake

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

EASTMAN Kodak, the big US photographic group which last week announced a reorganisation of its top management structure, yesterday revealed that it has taken a further step towards diversifying into biotechnology-based pharmaceutical products.

Kodak has paid \$13m for a 12 per cent stake in Neorx, a small, private-held company in Seattle which specialises in monoclonal antibody-based agents for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The investment is Kodak's second in the company, and gives it a minority interest of over 20 per cent, though it declined to specify it.

Kymmene will sell Stromberg to Asea

By Kevin Dope in Stockholm

ASEA, the Swedish electrical engineering group, is to acquire its Finnish rival Stromberg, the electrical engineering division of Kymmene-Stromberg, in one of the highest cross-border Nordic takeovers.

Stromberg itself was acquired by Kymmene, the Finnish forest products group, in 1983, to give the troubled pulp and paper producer some protection from the fluctuations of the forest industry.

The merger brought only marginal benefits, however, and Kymmene has moved instead to concentrate its resources on the forest industry, with its takeover earlier this year of Kauhajoki, one of Finland's most profitable forest products groups.

Mr. Percy Barnevik, chief executive of Asea, said yesterday that the acquisition of Stromberg was an important step in its strategy for consolidating the Nordic countries as its home base.

No financial details of the takeover were revealed, but Mr. Barnevik said it would be a cash acquisition. Asea is acquiring the entire Stromberg operation with the exception of its thermal products division.

The Stromberg activities - excluding thermal products - had a turnover last year of some SKr 2.4bn (\$339m), and a workforce of some 7,000 employees.

The acquisition is still subject to the approval of the authorities in both Finland and Sweden.

Asea, one of the world's top 10 electrical engineering groups, has annual sales of some SKr 30bn and a workforce of 62,000, of which around 5,000 are based outside Sweden.

Although Stromberg is the largest electrical engineering group in Finland, it has only a very limited presence abroad. Its main products include low-voltage apparatus, switches, electric motors, transformers, power electronics, drives and automation, installation and gears. Its main customers in the domestic market are within transport, shipbuilding, iron and steel, forest products and the power utilities.

Asea already has some 36 companies in the other Nordic countries outside Sweden with 6,250 employees and sales of SKr 5.3bn. Mr. Barnevik said yesterday that in order to consolidate its Nordic base, the company is considering listing its shares on the other Nordic stock exchanges.

He also suggested that the company could consider taking on board members from its Nordic neighbours.

Stromberg has suffered from relatively poor profitability in recent years, and last year had operating profits of FM 183.5m (\$15.5m), equal to some 6.7 per cent of sales. It had a turnover of FM 1.875bn last year and accounted for some 42 per cent of the combined Kymmene-Stromberg parent company's sales.

The takeover by Asea is unlikely to be completed before the end of the year and Mr. Barnevik said yesterday that the estimated full-year earnings for Asea would be "only marginally affected by the acquisition."

Mr. Barnevik added that Stromberg would continue to operate as an independent company within the Asea group.

He said that Asea was aiming to build up companies in each of the Nordic countries with their own research and development and with global responsibility for some product areas.

Mr. Barnevik said that Asea would not give any job guarantees to Stromberg employees and he refused to specify how he intended to reorganise the company.

CHICAGO PACIFIC CARVES STRONG SHARE IN DOMESTIC APPLIANCE MARKET

Allegheny faces long haul minus Rowenta

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES IN LONDON

MR TONY McCANN has it all to do again. With the distress sale of Rowenta to Chicago Pacific, his hopes of building a global presence for Allegheny International in the domestic small appliances business have suffered a stunning, possibly fatal, setback.

Mr. McCann, the UK-based head of Allegheny's appliances operations outside the Americas, is now basically pinned back in the British market with only one tired brand - Sunbeam - at his disposal. Sunbeam, which is riding high in the US, has been neglected in the UK as the group has bid to raise the profile of the up-market Rowenta label.

Putting on a brave face, Mr. McCann points out that Sunbeam is strong in Australia and making progress in the Middle East. Allegheny still has Girmi in Italy, which manufactures some products for Sunbeam and sells under its own brand. But the stark truth is that with the departure of Rowenta - which was half owned by Rohmann Deutschland - Allegheny and Mr. McCann have lost their much-valued foothold in the continental European market.

He and the company have invested heavily. Declaring himself "disappointed," but bowing to the corporate need to respond to bankers' demand for reduced borrowings, Mr. McCann describes Rowenta as "the

most exciting growth company in small appliances."

His view is shared throughout the industry, and there is much admiration for the company's recent progress in a highly-competitive, over-crowded market. Its manufacturing base, mainly in West Germany, has benefited from about \$10m capital investment annually for the past three years.

Total promotional spending, mainly devoted to building market share in Europe at large, has been running at more than \$13m a year. About two-thirds of last year's \$24m sales were made outside its strong base in Germany.

Mr. McCann promises Allegheny will be back, perhaps six or 12 months from now, when the group has its borrowings under control. But it will be a long haul. The choice would either be to buy and turn round one of the many troubled small appliance companies in the market, such as Moulinex or Krups, or to build Sunbeam from its low European base.

As things stand, his "fully-fledged" business has flown the coop and landed in the acquisitive hands of a cash-rich shell railroad company which, in the face of much scepticism, is set on becoming a major force in the international appliances business.

Chicago Pacific got off to a brisk start last year when it bought out

Hoover, a company similar to Rowenta in that it, too, had benefited from heavy capital and promotional investment in the years leading up to its sale.

Best known for, and in many parts of the world synonymous with vacuum cleaners, Hoover has a third of the US market in this product. In Britain it shares market leadership in washing machines with Hotpoint, the GEC subsidiary. Hoover vacuum cleaners and a range of other appliances - many currently sourced outside the company - are sold in 120 countries.

Chicago Pacific is saying little about its plans for its new buy and its future international development until the board has approved its latest venture later this week. However, Rowenta and Hoover represent the cornerstones, giving the emerging group strong base positions in three major world markets: the US, West Germany and the UK. They also offer a foothold all over Europe and the Pacific Basin.

The company has picked up a few oddments such as a burglar alarm company, but it appears still to want a strong third arm in major appliances. It recently failed to take over Simpson, the main washing machine maker in Australia. It also inspected Indesit, second biggest Italian appliance manufacturer after Zanussi, only to turn up its nose.

It is understood that Mr. Harvey

Kapnick, Chicago Pacific's chairman, felt that more needed to be done by the state-appointed receiver, to turn the company round.

Indesit is still up for sale and it is still possible that Mr. Kapnick may be tempted, given the company's well-established trading links around Europe, the receiver's continuing efforts to cut the workforce and modernise the plant, and the possibility of, after all, tagging the famed Hoover badge onto its products.

Chicago Pacific will also have to retain its nerve, and at the same time develop a sound product policy for its increasingly scattered empire. Despite Mr. Kapnick's domestic progress, the world domestic appliance market is a trying place. Margins are at best slender and increasingly companies have to rely on strong new product development programmes for profits.

As one senior Rowenta executive puts it: "The only way to grow is through innovation and by displacing the competition."

The main difficulty is that the competition refuses to be displaced. Customer loyalty to familiar brands has so far ensured that established names in the US and Europe are often given a new lease of life under new ownership when parent companies or private owners decide they can do without their appliances businesses.

Moulinex of France, for example, is safe for the moment under US protection. Morphy Richards of the UK seems comfortable under the wing of Glen Dimplex, a private Irish company.

Although the case is not an exact parallel, he might reflect on the experiences of his fellow Americans at Black & Decker, which, with a range of small appliances bought from General Electric, has so far failed to fulfil its early promises to flood the already saturated European market with household products bearing the famed B&D label.

Mr. Roger Thomas, responsible for B&D's efforts outside America, admits that last year's pilot launch of a range of small appliances in the UK with a £2.5m promotional budget has not gone as well as expected.

He has now changed his tactics. "Softly, softly, make money," he says.

The first products were basically "me-too" toasters, irons, fan heaters, hair dryers and kettles. Future launches will be based on the innovative application to household uses of the power tool company's own expertise in rechargeable battery technology and motor.

However, despite Black & Decker's disappointments and Allegheny's severe setback, US companies are still eager to enter the rich European appliance market in strength.

GE and Allied to co-operate on new engine

By Our New York Staff

GENERAL Electric and Allied Signal, two leading US industrial groups, have teamed up to produce a new high efficiency turbofan engine, incorporating modern technology, for corporate aircraft in the early 1990s.

The joint venture agreement, under study for more than a year, will involve GE's aircraft engine business group and Allied Signal's Garrett Turbine Engine subsidiary. The two companies said the new high bypass engine will be rated at 5,600 pounds thrust, rising to 7,000 pounds thrust and will use 20 per cent less fuel than current industry standard models with similar power.

The turbofan engine has been designated CFE738 and will be based on GE's highly successful GE27 core and Garrett's advanced technology low-pressure fan system.

Mr. Robert Hawkins, GE vice-president, said the agreement calls for GE to provide the core from its GE27 8000 turbofan engine developed under contract for the US army's modern technology demonstrator engine programme.

Argentine airline back in business

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S national airline, Aerolineas Argentinas, resumed normal operations at the weekend following an agreement between management and unions to reinstate 300 maintenance workers who had been dismissed the previous week, and to return to the negotiating table over salary scales.

The company suspended all flights 10 days ago in response to industrial action being mounted by maintenance workers who were demanding parity with workers of the other state airline, Austral. The confrontation raised fears of a total closure of Aerolineas Argentinas, which is burdened with a \$800m debt.

Five of the six unions which organised the company's 10,000 employees have agreed to suspend industrial action for 90 days,

provide for anticipated losses from the rehabilitation.

In regard to the London listing Mr. Teets said, the listing was being sought "in recognition of our international expansion and the changing nature of capital markets in the UK and Europe. In the last two years, our financial services business in the UK has grown by 78 per cent, and we intend to continue to expand in this area." The shares have been listed in the New York exchange since 1982.

At December 31, 1985, the company, based in Phoenix, Arizona, had total assets of around \$2.9bn and shareholders' equity of about \$1.2bn. Net income for 1985 was \$120m but the latest first quarter was sharply down at \$10.2m from \$19m. For the whole of 1985 revenue reached \$3.3bn.

Supreme court to hear Pennzoil case

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

THE US Supreme Court has agreed to intervene in Pennzoil's \$12bn legal action against Texaco, which it claims improperly interfered with its planned acquisition of Getty Oil in 1984.

The court is to hear Pennzoil's challenge to a federal court ruling that Texaco is not required to post a \$12m bond to appeal against the massive damages awarded by a Texas court last year.

The federal court ruling that Tex-

aco did not need to post the bond, although only a side issue in the case, was an important setback for Pennzoil. The proposed bond, which threatened to force Texaco into the bankruptcy courts, was seen as an important lever in Pennzoil's bid to win damages from Texaco for interfering with its agreed bid for Getty.

The decision by the Supreme Court to involve itself in the largest damages award in US corporate history is not unexpected. Nevertheless, it is seen as bolstering Pennzoil's position in its action. In early trading on Wall Street yesterday, Texaco shares slipped by 5¢ to \$33 1/4 and Pennzoil shares rose by 1 1/4 to \$51 1/4.

Texaco issued a statement yesterday noting that the Supreme Court decision simply means that the court will hear further arguments as to the propriety of the preliminary injunction handed down by the Court of Appeals. It said that it

"remains fully confident that its position on the merits of the case will be vindicated in the appeals process."

Texaco sought the federal injunction to enable it to "exercise its constitutional right to appeal the judgment against it throughout the entire appeals process without facing the dire consequences that would have been incurred under the Texas state bond and lien provisions."

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Greyhound's Conagra sale will offset losses

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

GREYHOUND, best known as operator of the largest inter-city bus system in the US, expects to show an \$87m after-tax gain from the sale of its stake in Conagra, the food processor. But the gain will be offset by provisions totalling \$52m arising from restructuring and losses by subsidiaries.

In addition yesterday, the group, which also manufactures buses and has interests in consumer products and financial services, explained the reasoning behind its plan to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Mr. John Teets, chairman and chief executive, said that Greyhound Lines, the transport subsidiary, had completed union agreements enabling the conversion of 90 of its 127 company-operated bus

terminals to independent commission agencies.

These newly converted facilities will join about 1,900 other commission agencies across the country which, for many years, have represented the bus company handling ticket sales, baggage, package express and other services.

Because of this move, second-quarter results will be charged about \$13m after-tax for one-time severance pay and expenses relating to the cutting of nearly 3,000 Greyhound Lines jobs affected by the expected conversion of all terminals.

Mr. Teets said: "We estimate the average payback period on this programme at Greyhound Lines will be about 12 months in as much as the conversion programme relieves the company of very significant ongoing fixed costs for terminal operations."

A further charge against second-quarter profits will relate to the European shipping loan portfolio of its financial group's foreign subsidiary. This has deteriorated further because of an increased level of non-performing loans.

Market conditions and the near-term outlook in this sector were at worst than previously expected, Greyhound said. The subsidiary's provision for losses is being increased by \$35m.

A third provision relates to Pine Top Insurance. Here, the board will seek to be placed under control of the Illinois Department of Insurance for "orderly rehabilitation under Illinois insurance laws."

Second-quarter group results will include a charge of about \$12m to

NEW ISSUE

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By John Wicks in Zurich

ADIA, the Lausanne-based temporary-employment group, is in the coming months to introduce 7,500 of its 100,000 registered shares to over-the-counter trading in Zurich, Basle and Geneva. The company's bearer shares and participation certificates are already listed on Swiss stock exchanges.

This follows the move in April by Mr Henri Lavanchy, the company founder, to pass on part of his controlling interest in Adia to senior members of management. In recent years Mr Lavanchy has withdrawn from an active role in the group and is now honorary chairman.

Adia carried out a rights issue in May, in which 35,000 new participation certificates of Sfr 20 face value were offered to existing shareholders and certificate holders at par and at a rate of one new certificate for each five bearer shares, 10 registered shares or 50 existing certificates.

Consolidated figures just issued show that turnover rose by 26.7 per cent last year to a record Sfr 1.36bn (\$738m). Cash flow was up 32.8 per cent to Sfr 57.1m and consolidated net earnings by 51.8 per cent to Sfr 39.9m.

Adia claims to be the world's fourth biggest temporary-employment agency concern. Among its major operating areas is the UK, where it owns Alfred Marks and is the market leader. Its Hamburg-based subsidiary Adia Interim has the biggest single market share in the federal republic.

Adia's group report says 1986 will "definitely be better than 1985."

Bank of Italy maintains grip on distribution of branches

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ITALY'S central bank has once again demonstrated its determination to maintain rigid control of the country's banking system. The Bank of Italy last week approved only 504 out of 2,787 requests by banks to open new branches, in the first major authorisation of new branches since 1982.

The bank is adhering to its policy of ensuring a wide geographic distribution of banking services while preventing what it regards as needless competition. The central bank controls the precise location of bank branches.

Mr Antonio Fazio, deputy director-general of the Bank of Italy, said that many of the requests for new branches were aimed purely at taking away market shares from competitors, rather than introducing banking to new areas. "The market," he said, "has to be regulated: excessive competition increases costs, reducing the efficiency of the system."

In deciding where banks may establish new branches, the Bank of

Italy in its awards has given preference to the opening of new branches in southern Italy, as well as in new urban areas which are undersupplied with branches.

Underlying the central bank's decisions is its philosophy that the strength of Italian banking and of the country's economy lies in the preservation of efficient local banking institutions which are in close touch with their customers.

For this reason Italy still has more than a thousand separate banking institutions, and the big banks - such as Banca Nazionale

del Lavoro and Banca Commerciale Italiana - have only a relatively small share of the country's 13,000-odd bank branches. But the Bank of Italy does favour a gradual process of rationalisation and concentration which means the disappearance of some marginal institutions.

Figures show that Italy has a much higher ratio of population per bank branch than other European countries. In France and West Germany there are about 1,500 people per bank branch, and in Britain nearly 2,300, while in Italy the figure is 4,400.

Citicorp Banking Corporation**U.S. \$250,000,000**

Guaranteed Floating Rate Subordinated Capital Notes Due July 10, 1997

Unconditionally Guaranteed on a Subordinated Basis by

CITICORP

Pursuant to Paragraph 1(d) of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the period in respect of Coupon No. 3 will run from July 10, 1986 to January 12, 1987. A further notice will be published advising rate of interest and Coupon amount payable.

June 24, 1986, London.
By: Citicorp, N.A. (CSEI Dept.), Agent Bank**CITIBANK**

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

June, 1986

**Snam****Trans Tunisian Pipeline Company Limited****U.S. \$70,000,000****Medium Term Loan**

Managed and Provided by

Eni International Bank Limited**The Mitsubishi Bank, Limited****Bankers Trust Company****Banca Commerciale Italiana****Crédit Commercial de France****Bankers Trust International Limited**

Arranger

These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue

June 1986

7,500,000 Shares**The France Fund, Inc.****Common Stock****Dillon, Read & Co. Inc.****Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.****Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.****The First Boston Corporation****Alex. Brown & Sons****Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette****Drexel Burnham Lambert****Goldman, Sachs & Co.****Hambrecht & Quist****Kidder, Peabody & Co.****Lazard Frères & Co.****Montgomery Securities****Morgan Stanley & Co.****Prudential-Bache****Robertson, Colman & Stephens****L. F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin, Inc.****Salomon Brothers Inc****Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co.****Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.****ABD Securities Corporation****Cazenove Inc.****Daiwa Securities America Inc.****Deutsche Bank Capital****Dominion Securities Pitfield Inc.****Eberstadt Fleming Inc.****EuroPartners Securities Corporation****Hoare Govett Limited****Kleinwort, Benson****McLeod Young Weir Incorporated****The Nikko Securities Co.****Nomura Securities International, Inc.****Paribas Corporation****Rothschild Inc.****Sogen Securities Corporation****Swiss Bank Corporation International Securities Inc.****UBS Securities Inc.****Wood Gundy Corp.****Yamaichi International (America), Inc.****KLM**

June, 1986

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines**Commercial Paper Program**

The undersigned acted as financial advisor in establishing this program and has been appointed Commercial Paper Dealer.

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In accordance with the terms

and conditions of the certificates

the Rate of Interest for the

Interest Determination period

24th June, 1986 to 24th Decem-

ber, 1986 has been fixed at

7.0925%

Interest accrued for the above

period and payable on 24th

December, 1986, will amount to

US\$1,802.68 per US\$50,000 Cer-

tificate and US\$18,026.78 per

US\$500,000 Certificate.

Agent Bank:

Morgan Guaranty Trust

Company of New York

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U.S. \$300,000,000**Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1992**

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For the six months period

24th June, 1986 to 24th December, 1986

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed at 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum and that the interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 24th December, 1986, against Coupon No. 8 will be U.S. \$368.54.

S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Agent Bank

INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

Australia tightens control on banks

AFTER A well-received decision by the Australian Government last year to license 16 foreign banks, the authorities are now becoming concerned over the cut-throat competition that has resulted from an overcrowded market. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), the central bank, is moving towards closer supervision in an attempt to check the bank's plunge into innovative but more risky activities.

In a country of 15.5m people where 32 banks and 182 merchant banks are competing, the market players have had to venture into high-risk, high-risk instruments in order to win clients and stay in the game. These instruments, which the foreign banks had intended to use in carving out part of the Australian business, are not usually reflected in banks' balance sheets and are therefore out of the RBA's jurisdiction. They include currency and interest rate swaps, futures transactions and Euromarket business.

Before the foreigners were invited into the country, Australian commercial banks had largely ignored such instruments. But they have since taken on the risks in order to pre-empt the newcomers and defend their market positions. If Australian banks have not taken the plunge, the RBA would perhaps not have been so much of its authority. But the big four Australian trading banks are now experts themselves, especially in commercial paper and securities, with the Commonwealth Bank having established itself as the market leader. Westpac, ANZ Bank are close behind.

The latest of the RBA's prudential requirements, issued early this month, is designed to monitor large credit exposures. After earlier obtaining banks' statements of policy on large lending, it now wants them to report quarterly on exposures

to individual clients or groups that exceed 10 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Among those which the RBA considers part of bank exposures and wants reported are such off-balance sheet items as letters of credit and commercial guarantees.

Late last year, it asked banks to provide details of all off-balance sheet transactions so it could determine how best to prevent banks from carrying undue risks.

But this has not been an easy task. Mr John Brady, head of

the Government first invited them into Australia. After just a few months of operation there, most foreign banks have scaled down their ambitions from the levels set when they lodged their licence applications.

Citicbank Australia, for instance, has cut the size of its corporate banking arm. Mr Michael Cannon-Brookes, chairman of the Australian unit, said the slowdown in the economy had reduced corporate business: much more sharply than banks had expected, while

700,000 accounts.

The British-backed banks—Barclays, Lloyds Bank NZA, NatWest Australia and Standard Chartered—are focusing on the more traditional lines of corporate and trade finance and money market and foreign exchange business. Barclays has specifically aimed at the middle corporate market which requires smaller loans.

The Japanese banks—Mitsubishi, Bank of Tokyo and Industrial Bank of Japan—are seeking trade finance, with the emphasis on Japanese companies operating in Australia. Hongkong Bank and Bank of Singapore, subsidiary of the Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation, are both angling for Australian connections with China and South-east Asia.

On entering Australia, the foreign banks found the four major trading banks well armed for the onslaught. After the Government deregulated the system and dismantled the operational barriers between banks and non-banks, they moved quickly into insurance, investment services and stock-broking. They also widened their overseas networks.

In 1984-85 they registered unprecedented profit increases. Westpac's net profits were up 50 per cent to A\$368m (US\$235.4m), Commonwealth Bank showed a 24 per cent rise to A\$358m, ANZ was 19 per cent higher at A\$320m, and National Australia was up 30 per cent to A\$302m.

All the banks attributed the rise in profits and assets to overseas operations. This is yet another cause for concern for the RBA, which has now required banks to back up part of their foreign currency liabilities with liquid assets. Liabilities raised abroad were previously not covered by the RBA's prescribed asset ratio, whereby banks are required to keep 12 per cent of their liabilities invested in certain liquid assets.

Emilia Tagaza in Canberra reports on growing concern over cut-throat competition in an overcrowded market.

The RBA's supervision unit said the market is constantly developing new types of deals which the bank has to keep up with. Like other central banks, it has yet to find appropriate prudential standards in this dynamic area.

As a stop-gap measure, the RBA has sought the help of banks' external auditors to ensure that banks are keeping appropriate controls on their exposures. Last April, it decided to involve external auditors in the supervisory process. It said the existing system of prudential supervision had become insufficient.

The growing supervision, combined with the higher capital ratio required of foreign banks, have placed the new entrants at a competitive disadvantage. They are required to maintain a capital-to-assets ratio of 6.5 per cent in their initial years. This compares with existing banks' 5 per cent.

According to an official of one US bank, many of the foreign banks would be restrained from what they originally set out to do when

stiff competition is squeezing returns on traditional corporate banking services.

But he added that Citibank's consumer banking arm will remain strong. The three US giants—Citibank, Bank of America and Chase Manhattan—going for the retail sector, backed by their extensive electronic networks.

Chase has a built-in base through its 50-50 partnership with Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), the country's largest life insurance group with about 2m policyholders. The Bank of America unit is 25 per cent-owned by the Coles-Meyer retail chain, whose 1,000-plus supermarkets and department stores throughout Australia provide good entree into retail banking.

Latest to join the retail fray is National Mutual Royal Bank (NMRB), a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Canada and the National Mutual Life Association of Australia, the second largest Australian insurance group. NMRB last week proposed to take over the large United Permanent Building Society which has more than

Moussa to launch Frandev fund

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

MR PIERRE MOUSSA, the French financier who chaired the now-nationalised Paribas investment bank up to October 1981, plans to play a role in the forthcoming privatisation of French state-owned companies and banks.

In what amounts to an ironic come-back on to the French financial scene 4 years after he was forced to quit Paribas in a major row over nationalisation, Mr Moussa yesterday gave details of the launching of a FRF 850m (\$112m) investment fund on the Paris stock market next week.

Mr Moussa, aged 64, said in his first Press conference since leaving Paribas that he hoped the investment fund—France Development—would, in association with other institutions, play an "active" role in buying shares of companies to be denationalised.

In clearly upbeat mood Mr Moussa, who is now chairman of the London arm of Dillon Read, the US investment bank, voiced optimism about growth opportunities for the Paris financial markets in coming years.

Commenting on the change in the French economic climate since the previous Socialist Government came to power in 1981, Mr Moussa said a "quasi-consensus" now reigned in France on the importance of bolstering the company sector. "We are benefiting from a



Pierre Moussa: Plans role in privatisation of state-owned companies

situation which has completely changed," he said.

Frandev will act mainly to buy shares in French companies, although it will also have the right to build up holdings in bonds. Frandev officials yesterday made clear the fund would be interested in all kinds of placements in private companies as well as those on the Government's privatisation list.

The Frandev capital could be invested within 12 to 18 months, or sooner, depending

on the state of the bourse, Frandev officials said.

The fund, constituted as a SICAP or fixed capital investment company, will be able to commit up to 10 per cent of its capital in any one company.

Mr Moussa pointed out that the fund would thus be able to take no more than minor stakes on the capital of any of the larger companies or banks to be denationalised. However, associated with French institutional shareholders in Frandev, as well as the range of international financial organisations backing Mr Moussa's separate Palas international group, Frandev's role could be "active rather than passive", he said.

Under the share introduction plan for the second round of the Paris bourse on June 27, an extra 6 per cent of Frandev's capital is to be floated. Some 11 per cent of Frandev's capital is already held by the public.

A group of seven big French institutions, including the UAP and AGF insurance companies, the Caisse des Dépôts and the Omnium Financier de Paris owned by the Total oil company, holds at present 51 per cent of the shares, with other institutions in France and abroad owning a further 38 per cent.

Mr Moussa aims progressively to open up further the capital of the fund to the public and to increase its total size, depending on the rhythm at which investments are made.

Sharp reverse at Olympus in first half

By Our Financial Staff

OLYMPUS, the Japanese maker of camera and optical equipment, suffered a 22.4 per cent erosion of pre-tax profits to ¥3.12bn (\$18.6m) in the first half to April.

Net earnings, however, were 2.2 times higher, at ¥2.24bn against ¥2.20bn, reflecting ¥7.48bn in asset disposals made during the latest period. The currency squeeze exerted on export margins nullified sales 2.3 per cent lower to ¥90.98bn. Per-share net earnings for the parent company were ¥49.46 compared with ¥11.53, and the interim dividend is being maintained at ¥6.50 a share.

Olympus has been expanding strongly into medical products, where it has secured as much as 70 per cent of the world market for endoscopes.

For the full year to October, Olympus forecasts a 12 per cent dip in turnover to ¥17.7bn. A similar profits pattern is expected, with a 20.3 per cent decline at the pre-tax level to ¥5.5bn but with net earnings 162 per cent higher at ¥11.5bn.

Higher costs peg growth at Rand London

By Jim Jones in Johannesburg

RAND LONDON, the troubled South African mining associate of Burnet and Hallamshire of the UK, increased turnover by two-fifths in the year to March but failed to boost profits by the same proportion.

Turnover rose to R94.2m (\$38.3m) from R66.3m while operating profits before interest and tax increased by just over 6 per cent to R7.63m from R7.46m. Pre-tax profits rose to R4.86m from R3.58m.

Mr John Hall, the managing director, says profits were restrained by higher costs and forward cover taken on export earnings. Loss-making operations are to be closed and in future the company will concentrate on exploitation of high-quality anthracite resources. Capital expenditure has again exceeded net profits and the preference dividend due on June 30 will not be paid. Ordinary dividends were last declared in 1980.

Cafe de Coral to go public

CAFE DE CORAL group, a chain of 32 Chinese-style fast-food restaurants in Hong Kong, is to seek a public listing on the territory's stock market. AP-DJ reports from Hong Kong.

The group said it plans to obtain the listing through an offer of 100m new ordinary shares at HK\$1.18 each. Of those shares, 49 per cent will be offered to the public, with the remainder going to Cafe de Coral's 23 current shareholders, most of whom are directors or employees of the group.

Mr K. M. Lo, managing director, said Cafe de Coral should earn net profits of no less than HK\$347m (US\$44.62m) in calendar 1987.

A Corporate Renewal and a New Identity

...but some things never change

You have known us for a long time under other names. Well-known names.

Massey-Ferguson

Massey-Ferguson. World's largest in farm tractors.

Perkins

Perkins. A world leader in multi-purpose diesel engines.

MF Industrial

MF Industrial. For durable backhoes and utility tractors.

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Pacoma. A rising star in fluid power systems.

We are still all of these well-known names, even though Massey-Ferguson Limited, the parent company, is adopting a new name.

We are still a family of 17,000 battle-tested, hard-working, determined employees, pulling together.

We are still nearly 10,000 distributors and dealers in 190 countries, dedicated to supplying world-class products and unexcelled service to our customers.

We are still 35,000 shareholders in North America and abroad, investing in the future of our enterprise.

We are still engaged in other useful activities, such as helping emerging economies develop their agricultural resources... providing financial services and insurance protection to customers and others... undertaking large-scale real property development... investing in small businesses that share our vision of the future.

What has really changed? Our outlook and our strategic priorities. We are profitable again, and we intend to stay that way—by building on our well-known names and by adding new names to our business portfolio.

And by giving our new venture-capital unit, Varsity Enterprises, more resources to seek out exciting growth opportunities.

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Goldman, Sachs & Co.

June, 1986

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(Incorporated in Queensland)

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June, 1986

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Perpetual FRN by Banque Paribas

BY CLARE PEARSON

BANQUE PARIBAS, the French bank yesterday raised \$300m through a perpetual floating-rate note (FRN) issue, which ranks as primary capital. The issue, led by Banque Paribas Capital Markets, was well received by the market and was increased from an original \$200m. The extra \$100m remains on tap.

The issue pays a point over three-month London interbank offered rate, and has a minimum coupon of 5 per cent for the first five years. At the end of that period the issue is callable at par. Fees total 15 basis points. Issue price is 100.10, and the issue traded comfortably above this level at 100.12 on the bid side.

Elsewhere in the FRN sector, Morgan Guaranty launched a \$250m 12-year deal for Bank of Montreal, which was also well received. The deal is also non-callable for the first five years. Interest payments are at the relatively generous rate of five basis points over six-month London interbank offered rate. The borrower's overall cost is reduced by an accompanying private placement of \$50,000 12-year "floor certificates". These are options on future interest rates which pay the holder 6 per cent less six-month London interbank

offered rate, if London interbank offered rate declines below 6 per cent.

Fees on the issue totalled 15 basis points and it traded yesterday at 100.25 on the bid side, as against a par issue price. Dealers thought it was a "sign of hard times" in the market.

Due to a computer fault it has not been possible to publish yesterday's international bond prices.

fixed-rate sector that triple A rated Liberty Mutual Insurance, the fifth largest insurance company in the US, should have issued \$150m of 10-year paper at an initial spread of 85 basis points over comparable US Treasury bond yields yesterday. This margin, however, ensured good demand for the deal, which traded within the 1 1/2 per cent commissions.

It was led by Merrill Lynch. The coupon was set at 8 1/2 per cent and issue price at 101. In Canadian dollars, Union Bank of Switzerland issued a \$75m bond for Ford Credit Canada, guaranteed by Ford Motor Credit. The five-year bond paid a coupon of 8 1/2 per cent and was priced at 100 1/2.

Dealers said the terms compared poorly with recent issues for borrowers such as Canada Trust in the five-year maturity level. The lead manager kept a support bid within total fees.

Daiwa Europe launched two deals into the European market. One, a \$150m deal, was for Council of Europe, which has previously borrowed in the Samurai market. The deal was not swap-related and dealers thought its terms, a 6 per cent coupon over a 10-year life and issue price of 101 1/2, fair. Daiwa Europe reported demand from European investors.

Daiwa's other \$150m offering, for Nissan Motors, which pays 6 1/2 per cent over its 10-year life, looked less attractive. Dealers were sceptical about how far it would be traded in the primary market in Europe.

In the equity warrants sector, the day saw two deals for Japanese companies. The first, led by Nomura, was for Nagasaki, the clothing retailer. The \$60m five-year bond will be priced on July 1, but the coupon is indicated at 2 1/2. The second deal, led by Nikko Securities, was for Nippon Chemi-Con, the electrical components manufacturer. This \$50m bond also had an indicated coupon of 2 1/2 per cent, and five-year maturity. Pricing will take place on June 30.

Late in the day Nikko Securities

launched a \$100m seven-year bond for J. P. Morgan, for which Morgan Guaranty also arranged an issue of warrants into US Treasury bonds yesterday.

The \$100m deferred coupon bond pays 8 per cent for the first five years, although this is deferred until the end of that period. For the last two years the issue pays 8 1/2 per cent coupons.

The Swiss franc market traded weakly yesterday. Prices were mostly unchanged, although a 5 1/2 per cent convertible for People Express lost 8 points in price to 65 per cent. Dealers pointed to heavy fare-cutting by the hard-pressed airline.

A 3 per cent issue with equity warrants, attached for Montedison Finance traded for the first time and closed at 97 1/2. There was one new public bond issue: a \$FR 150m deal for SHV Holdings, the Dutch diversified consumer goods company. The 12-year bond pays an indicated 5 1/2 per cent coupon. Pricing will take place on June 26. Union Bank of Switzerland led the deal.

The D-Mark market gained some confidence from the US Treasury bond market early on, but lost ground in thin afternoon trading.

Late in the day Nikko Securities

Move to improve Samurai market

By Yoko Shibata in Tokyo

JAPAN'S Big Four securities houses yesterday began quieting price indications for around 20 leading issues in the Samurai bond market, in an attempt to improve secondary trading of the yen-denominated domestic bonds issued by foreign borrowers.

The move by Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamachi reflects a realisation among the securities houses that the improvement already under way in underwriting methods is not alone adequate to revitalise the Samurai market.

The four underwriting houses are announcing indications for bonds issued by international organisations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and account for about half of the issues covered by the new system.

In addition, each will announce indications for some 10 issues lead managed by themselves. The four underwriting houses are obliged to purchase bonds offered by customers at the bid price. They will not announce asked prices if they do not have sufficient supplies of the paper.

The Samurai market for non-resident issuers has been expected to play a key role in the Ministry of Finance policy of promoting a more international role for the yen. However, volume of issues has been sharply reduced, so far totalling only 14 bonds worth ¥420bn — only 23 per cent of the level in the first half of 1985.

If the current trend continues, the issue market is likely to see the first year-to-year fall in six years. This reflects the problems of relatively low liquidity for Samurai bonds and a deteriorating secondary market due to a halt in long-term interest rate declines.

Issuing schedules have often been delayed because of differences over issue terms between issuers and underwriters. After the Bank of China issue with a record 100-day delay, the market was a gap of a month until the next Samurai bond was floated by Korean Electric Power.

CSR to expand but forecasts flat profits

CSR, the diversified Australian resources group, plans to enter an expansion phase using the proceeds from share issues announced this month, but has forecast a flat profits outcome for the current year to March 1987, Reuters reports from Sydney.

Mr Gene Herbert, finance director, said he foresaw no substantial earnings advance in the absence of major rises in oil and commodity prices. A placement of 80m shares at A\$3 and the issue of about 62.5m options at A\$1 each on a one-for-ten basis will raise some A\$400m initially and A\$450m in total over five years.

"We think that after three years of consolidation and sorting out the house, it is time we started moving forward and into growth a lot more aggressively than we have been able to do in the last three years," Mr Herbert said.

He said that CSR, hampered by debt from its Delhi oil and gas unit and low commodity prices, has not been making good profits although it has been maintaining a high dividend payout ratio.

Projects earmarked by CSR include expansion of the building materials operations, both locally and overseas. Building materials has been CSR's most successful single division in recent years. It contributed A\$52m in 1985-86 to net profits of A\$125.38m.

US QUARTERLIES

EX-CELL-O CORP			
Industrial Equipment, Auto Parts			
	1986/7	1985/6	
Second quarter			
Revenue	\$12.1m	\$9.8m	
Net profits	13.5m	14.2m	
Net per share	0.85	1.00	
Six months			
Revenue	\$57.7m	\$55.3m	
Net profits	21.1m	21.5m	
Net per share	1.50	1.50	

R. J. HEINEZ			
Food			
	1986/7	1985/6	
Fourth quarter			
Revenue	\$1.22bn	\$1.08bn	
Net profits	\$2.6m	\$2.8m	
Net per share	0.60	0.49	
Year			
Revenue	\$4.37bn	\$4.05bn	
Net profits	\$30.73m	\$26.98m	
Net per share	2.20	1.93	

NEW ENGLAND ELECTRIC			
Utility			
	1986/7	1985/6	
Five months			
Revenue	\$2.9m	\$3.2m	
Net profits	\$3.9m	\$2.5m	
Net per share	1.38	1.41	
Year			
Revenue	\$14.7bn	\$14.6bn	
Net profits	\$65.0m	\$60.4m	
Net per share	\$1.15	\$1.15	

SOUTHERN COMPANY			
Utility			
	1986	1985	
Five months			
Revenue	\$2.6m	\$2.5m	
Net profits	\$26.0m	\$21.3m	
Net per share	1.07	1.15	

TEXAS UTILITIES			
Utility			
	1986/6	1985/4	
Year			
Revenue	\$4.06m	\$4.05m	
Net profits	\$20.2m	\$18.5m	
Net per share	4.28	4.20	

Survey shows varied approach to sovereign risk
Banks build reserves for Third World debt crisis

BY DAVID LASCELLES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF the key questions in international banking is whether banks have built up strong enough reserves to meet an all-out crisis on the Third World debt front. But it is also a question that is hard to answer because the practices of providing against possible loan losses vary greatly from country to country, reflecting different accounting, regulatory and fiscal conditions.

In a new survey on allowances for sovereign risk Peat Marwick, the accountants, point to this lack of a uniform approach to a common problem, and is able only to draw a very general, though positive, conclusion.

"Coupled with the increased attention being directed to other indicators of financial strength, such as capital adequacy relationships, it would appear that there has been some overall improvement in bank's ability to withstand the impact of possible deterioration in the ultimate collectability of sovereign risk loans."

Nevertheless, the survey shows that bank supervisors are taking a closer interest in the adequacy of provisions. Two more countries have introduced rules or guidelines since Peat Marwick last conducted such a survey in 1984, bringing the total to eight. More banks are also disclosing the extent of their provisions, and discussing their policies in the annual reports.

The eight countries are Belgium, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. Of these only Belgium, Japan and Spain have published their rules — the rest have kept them confidential to banks.

Of the eighth, three have specifically identified the sovereign borrowers for whom loan loss allowances should be made. Canada has listed 32 countries without specifying

individual rates of allowance. The US has named seven countries, with rates varying from 15 to 80 per cent. The Netherlands has compiled a list of 25 countries with minimum rates of allowances ranging from 5 per cent to 100 per cent.

Authorities in Sweden, Switzerland and Spain have grouped

than supervisory rules also influence the size of loan loss provisions.

One of the most important is the tax treatment of provisions and write-offs, which varies widely between countries which allow full deductibility, and Singapore which allows none at all.

COUNTRIES WHICH IDENTIFY PROBLEM SOVEREIGN BORROWERS

Each country	Groups of countries	Identification by risk parameters	Rates of allowance %
Canada	—	—	10-15
—	—	Japan	1-5
Netherlands	—	—	5-100
—	Spain	Spain	15-100
—	Sweden	Sweden	30-100
—	Switzerland	Switzerland	10-50
US	—	US	15-80

countries into risk categories, while others have tried to take into account specific events, like reschedulings and non-performance. The monitoring of compliance with the rules is usually done through regular reporting to the supervisory authorities.

In countries where no specific rules have been established, many authorities still take a close interest in the level of provisions and will usually indicate to banks the types of loans where they would be appropriate in the UK, for example, the Bank of England encourages allowances for country risk without setting specific guidelines. In France Austria and Ireland, the authorities discuss country risk with banks, and in Luxembourg banks are told what kinds of loans would require provisions to be made against them.

The Peat Marwick report notes that considerations other

Another is the acceptability of hidden reserves, which are taken into account in six countries: Belgium, Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK for "except banks" which are allowed to keep inner reserves. The third is the overall profitability of a bank, and the desire among banks to maintain smooth profit trends.

Despite these variations, though, Peat Marwick says: "There are also indications from a number of countries that banks have been reinforcing their allowances against sovereign risk loans, and that the relationship between total allowances and total loans has been growing."

Allowances for sovereign risk — an international survey. Peat Marwick, Grosse Gallusstrasse 10-14, 6000 Frankfurt am Main 1, West Germany. Tel (069) 21640.

Malaysia urged to allow foreign broking outlets

THE KUALA LUMPUR Stock Exchange (KLSE) is to suggest to the Malaysian Government that foreign brokers which do not want to take stakes in local brokerage firms should be allowed to open representative offices there, according to Mr Nik Mohamed Din, the exchange chairman, Reuters reports.

Under changes approved by the government last April, banks and foreign brokers may buy stakes in local brokerage firms. The process is aimed at injecting professionalism and funds into Malaysia's 47 brokerage houses.

Mr Din said banks may not open their own broking firms. However, market operators said banks and foreign brokers were reluctant to do so because many brokerages have big liabilities. Only one merchant bank is known to have bought into a securities firm since the rules were relaxed.

Mr Nik said that other banks seeking broking licences were being told to negotiate with 42

brokers who want outside investment.

He added that the KLSE and the Government have formed a committee to help funnel such investment. Malaysian Banking, Bank Bumiputra, United Malaysian Banking and an unnamed foreign broker were now negotiating with local brokers.

No foreign stockbrokers have opened such talks with local brokers, Mr Nik said. Industry officials said foreigners are being deterred by rules limiting foreign ownership in local firms to 30 per cent.

"We will suggest to the authorities that... where foreign brokers do not want to take up stakes in local firms they be allowed to set up representative offices here," Mr Nik said.

The KLSE has introduced other measures to beef up the securities industry, which was hard hit by the collapse of the Singapore-based Pan-Electric Industries last November.

Japan changes rules on bank reserve requirements

BY OUR TOKYO STAFF

THE BANK OF JAPAN has resolved final details of reserve requirement ratios for commercial banks under a newly created system designed to lessen banks' reserve burdens. The new ratios, which will take effect from July 16, are in line with a cabinet decision earlier this month to implement revisions to the law on reserve deposit requirements.

Under the present system, reserve requirement ratios differ according to types of financial institutions and amounts of deposits. In the case of commercial banks, requirement ratio increases in three stages. This forces those banks to raise the ratio suddenly when the overall level of deposits moves into an upper category.

Under the new five-stage system, no ratio will be applied for the first ¥50bn of time deposits including negotiable instruments. A ratio of 0.125 per cent will be applied for the portion up to ¥500bn, a unified

0.125 per cent between ¥500bn and ¥1,200bn, 1.275 per cent for ¥1,200bn to ¥2,500bn, and 1.75 per cent for more than ¥2,500bn.

For all money and other deposits, the ratio will be zero for the first ¥50bn, 0.25 per cent between ¥50bn and ¥500bn, 1.875 per cent for ¥500bn to ¥1,200bn, and 2.5 per cent over ¥1,200bn.

However, reserve ratios for foreign currency deposits and bonds will be kept unchanged, while the Norinchukin Bank is excluded from the current measures.

The new system is expected to reduce banks' reserve requirements by a total of ¥740bn. Among them "city" or commercial banks are expected to see a decrease of ¥380bn, regional banks ¥280bn, trust banks ¥40bn, and shinkin, so-called mutual and long-term credit banks ¥10bn. Foreign banks expect only a small fall,

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FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

General Motors puts MAP into gear

Leading advocate for compatibility of automation machinery, the world's largest vehicle manufacturer has its first systems up and running. Geoffrey Charlish reports.

GENERAL MOTORS has revealed the first major application within the company of MAP, or "manufacturing automation protocol."

MAP is a world-wide industrial initiative, led by GM, to encourage automation makers to use standards. Now the company has started assembling commercial vehicles in three plants in the US and Canada that have been "wired up" for MAP as part of a massive automation programme.

The MAP technology is used to allow body shop, paint, trim, guided vehicle, test, and other control systems to "talk" to each other.

MAP performs the communications role in GM's big GMT 400 project in which five of its commercial vehicle plants are being revamped with a 50 per cent increase in automation. Three of the plants, those concerned with assembly at Fort Wayne (Indiana), Pontiac (Michigan), and Oshawa (Ontario) have MAP "up and running."

Systems integration for GMT 400 is being carried out by Electronic Data Systems, the

GM data networking subsidiary. GM officially releases no investment figures, but budgeted total expenditure on GMT 400 is reliably understood to exceed \$2.5bn. The corporation has already announced it will be spending \$400bn on automation by 1990.

MAP is a set of communications software and hardware specifications based on international standards nearing finalisation by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) in Geneva.

These standards relate to an "open systems interconnection" model laid down by ISO which allows items like computers, programmable controllers, robots and other shop floor items, regardless of manufacturer, to communicate at all levels, covering everything from the electrical characteristics of signals sent down wires to the way information is arranged in a particular application.

In 1984, GM concluded that each time a plant was to be refurbished for a new model range, advances in automation,

which nowadays always entails data communication between equipments, were being prevented by the incompatible ways in which information is dealt with by different equipment manufacturers. Today, all GM suppliers have to conform with MAP, which has become something of a crusade outside GM and in manufacturing in general.

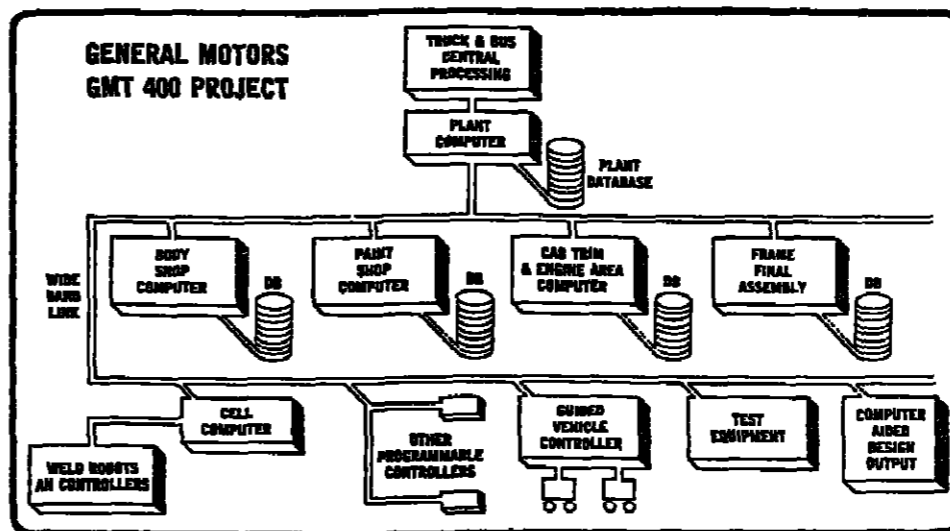
In North America over 200 organisations have pledged allegiance to MAP including major manufacturing companies like Boeing, Du Pont, Ford, Kodak and McDonnell Douglas. There are also many committed automation equipment makers including Allen Bradley, Digital Equipment Corporation, General Electric (US), Gould, Hewlett Packard and International Business Machines.

Intel and Motorola are offering chip sets for MAP. In Europe, ASEA, British Petroleum, Fiat, the General Electric Company (which recently announced some products), Philips, Renault, Siemens, Unilever, Volvo and Volkswagen have expressed support.

GM has been first off the mark with a major application and necessarily so—in one plant it found that 37 different computer-based systems were in use, each with its own cabling. They could not communicate unless special bridging software was written at great expense.

GMT 400 incorporates the first major implementation of MAP and is based on a hierarchy of computers interconnected by broadband cable networks—high capacity connections that can transfer large amounts of information very quickly.

Overall control is by the truck and bus division's central computer, which deals with over 30 business applications including material control, vehicle ordering, financial control and computer-aided design. Connected to this "master machine" is each plant's own main computer and database (store of working data). This in turn is in overall control of four smaller machines and databases that deal with body fabrication, painting, cab trim/engine



GENERAL MOTORS GMT 400 PROJECT

assembly, and final assembly of bus or truck frames.

Basically, each plant's main computer is in charge of production scheduling, shipping control and order processing.

It also monitors production facilities all over the plant.

Connected to it, each of the four smaller machines, acting on instructions from a central computer, supplies "build" data on the various production equipments including welding and painting robots, the automatic guided vehicles that move bodies about the shop floor, and the testing equipment. These computers also gather manufacturing process results and

send them up the computer hierarchy to the plant and master machines.

GMT 400 uses a single coaxial cable system to carry data between the plants, electronically split into six high capacity channels within the cable. (Previously GM had been faced with bunches of cables several feet in diameter.)

Two of the channels are used for MAP communications, two for the interconnection of terminals, one for IBM communications using SDLC (synchronous data link control, an IBM proprietary communications protocol) and one for miscellaneous data.

The system integrates most of the high technology systems in each new plant into a communicating whole. As well as the robot weld and paint controllers, these include vision systems that guide robots carrying out sealing operations and robots performing fluid filling tasks, glass installation, laser etching of body numbers and spare tyre placement.

The dominant names in the plants are basically three: IBM for central and plant machines, Digital Equipment Corporation for area management computers and Allen Bradley for programmable manufacturing cell controllers.

Gulf takes friction out of truck and bus oils

By John Griffiths

GULF OIL is launching a new low-friction, low-viscosity commercial vehicles transmission oil which, it claims, represents the first significant advance in such technology for about 20 years.

In recent years, a number of companies have developed synthetic low-friction oils for use in truck and bus gearboxes and axles. However, these are significantly more expensive than conventional oils. Gulf for its part has reverted to conventional mineral oil as the basis for its "Transtech" oil, which is of 75/80 viscosity compared with the 90 of other conventional, mineral oil-based transmission lubricants.

Despite the oil's lower viscosity, Gulf insists that its low-friction properties produce a 10 per cent reduction in operating temperatures, resulting in extended component life and reduced fuel consumption.

Gulf also claims that extensive testing in North America and Europe has shown that oil change intervals can also be extended considerably.

The transmission oil is being launched in parallel with a new engine oil, Power-Tech AEP, also developed specifically for trucks and buses.

The commercial vehicles lubricants market is a valuable one which can justify the oil majors developing products separate from those designed for cars. In the UK alone, for example, the aftermarket in lubricating oils for trucks and buses is worth \$25m a year, of which transmission oils account for \$14m.

An ideal opportunity for better projection of Britain's image overseas

THE NEW technologies for delivering moving pictures are creating great demands for programming to feed the systems. When a research group offers a multi-client study on such a subject, this may be taken as a sure indicator that programming is about to become the next big commercial issue when the big arguments over direct broadcasting satellites (DBS), 8mm video and so on have died down.

The multi-client study—The Programme Demand Up to the Year 2000—is to be carried out by the Swiss-based organisation Prognos. In its promotional literature, Prognos puts the problem succinctly: an estimated 50,000 cinema films have been produced worldwide since the arrival of sound, but possibly only 15,000 are still usable—how long will the reserves last?

Television and video have created the demand, and for all its failure to exploit the hardware, Britain is uniquely placed

to rise to this software opportunity: its films and TV programmes are highly acclaimed, and the English language is the most widely used in world markets.

Against this background, it requires little imagination to see how the UK government might use this demand to benefit the nation. To some extent this is already happening—especially through the Central Office of Information (COI) and the British Council.

The COI has various schemes, refined over the years, to get Britain's message across to overseas audiences. Britain's 184 embassies and High Commissions are now equipped with VCRs and in regular receipt of programmes about British industry and products.

The overseas of this is the cultural work of the British Council, which (among other things) helps to ensure that the quality of British film and television arts are well pro-

moted overseas—as for example a forthcoming festival of British television due to be held in Moscow, and support offered at this year's film festival where Britain had a much higher profile than in previous years.

Film and television units visiting Britain from abroad also receive assistance from the COI, which can pave the way by organising local co-operation, helping with research and even hiring equipment. The service is highly relevant to the overseas promotion of Britain, such as through the guidance provided to an American TV unit in the UK to make a programme about the safety of tourists.

Private enterprise tries as well, and later this week at Bristol the Financial Times Export Award will be presented to a video programme in the annual festival of British sponsored films. Started in 1971, when Rover Cars won it with a swashbuckling film made to

introduce the Range Rover, the FT award has since gone to films about the construction industry, pottery, industrial processes, medicine, tourism and last year to a British Council film about UK educational services for foreign students.

New technology is also being explored with some of these overseas activities, as in a programme series distributed on

FILM AND VIDEO

by John Chittock

US cable television—Focus on Britain. For \$38,000 a British company can have a 30 minute programme made and distributed on American cable systems, with an audience rating of 800,000 viewers. The British Consulate in Los Angeles has pioneered this particular idea, helped by the COI

in London.

All of this is good news for Britain. The bad news, however, is that many believe the UK is not doing enough compared to some other countries. The US, for example, is beginning to equip its embassies with satellite TV teleconferencing facilities—so that journalists in host countries can interview leading politicians or industrialists in the US.

Since one survey suggests that 65 per cent of Americans receive all of their news and information from television, it would be encouraging to report that the British Government is now stepping up the local support for UK moving picture product. In fact, COI's staff in New York alone has declined from about 200 in the 1980s to just 45 today. Art and culture fairs even worse. Members of the British Council's advisory committee on films and television were recently horrified to learn that the Council's representation for British cul-

ture and education in the whole of the US is just one full-time and one half-time.

Maybe private enterprise does better? Unfortunately it does not, with fewer films and video programmes being made for overseas audiences and a depressing lack of enterprise in distributing those which are made, such as two examples I have seen recently where the sponsors, having spent in excess of \$80,000 on the productions, have invested only a few hundred pounds in copies.

The COI, which offers its services free to British industry, often finds similar problems—as for example in its so-called Video Catalogue, a moving picture index featuring clips of British products. But too few companies have video clips available when invited to participate.

The quality of British movies is well known—not just feature films like Gandhi and Bridgehead Revisited, but productions

throughout the range. Typical are three contenders in this year's FT Export Award—Design International (about Letraset) and A Word in the Ear of the World (about The Economist newspaper and aimed at international advertisers), and the COI's Accident (from its overseas science series Perspective, which is a match for the very best of broadcast television programmes like Britain's Horizon).

Yet the industry still struggles for more government support, such as the National Interactive Video Centre which is not financially secure, despite Britain's world lead in interactive video programming.

If British manufacturing attracted the same international acclaim as our screen media, the country's economic problems might be over. But it seems there are ironies about failure and success—the one encourages Government subsidy, and the other neglect.



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UK COMPANY NEWS

Avana's £20m disappoints and shares fall 24p

Avana Group, the food processor which includes Marks and Spencer among its customers, raised its 1985-86 profits by just 3.6 per cent to £20.21m at the pre-tax level.

City analysts have been downgrading their forecasts recently but the figures announced were still some way below their expectations and by the close of business yesterday, the company's shares had shed 24p at 385p.

The results for the year to March 29 1986 were bolstered by other operating income amounting to £2.14m (nil) and by the Dutch associate, Fort, which increased its pre-tax profits substantially to £1.2m.

Other operating income comprised capital gains and investment income from gilts and equities.

Dr John Randall, the group's chairman, says the year under review was characterised by severe competition.

Viola Foods lost volume and margin but shareholders are told that these problems are being corrected. Viola lost a Co-op contract worth £4m a year to turnover.

The chairman says substantial over-capacity in the preserve market led to inadequate margins at James Robertson —

the problem is still unresolved. Robertson made a small profit. R. F. Brooks overcame the problems caused by the delay in completion of its new factory and made good progress. Profits here showed a good rise. The cakes company had a very good year.

In France, the canning company, Penry, made a profit of over £1m in spite of the bad weather. The Cyprus hotels activity made a small loss and has been disposed of.

Dr Randall says the current year has started on a better note and adds that there is scope for obtaining growth from recent and continuing investment.

Group turnover for the past year improved from £193.63m to £202.47m. Pre-tax profits included a related companies share amounting to £17.39m (£19.02m), interest and other investment income totalling £684,000 (£486,000) and other operating income of £2.14m (nil). There was a same-again £800,000 provision to the profit sharing scheme.

Net profits emerged at £13.57m, against a previous £13.91m, equal to earnings of 38.73p, up from 36.84p. A final dividend of 7p lifts the total from 11.25p to 12p net per share.

See Lex

Alastair Morton to take chair at Guinness Mahon

BY DAVID LASCELLES

MR ALASTAIR MORTON, chief executive of the Guinness Peat Group, is to become chairman of Guinness Mahon Holdings, the holding company for the group's investment banking activities. The move reflects the growing importance of investment banking for Guinness Peat which has made several acquisitions in that field.

Mr Morton will succeed Lord Croham on July 1. Lord Croham will remain chairman of Guinness Peat Group.

Guinness Mahon Holdings is being reshaped to have four segments reflecting the balance of business now emerging at GPG, following the group's recent failure in its takeover battle for Britannia Arrow.

These are:
● GPG Asset Management which includes Temple Bar Fund

Managers acquired last year. The group may also shortly announce the acquisition of a fund management business in the US.

● GM Securities which will combine the institutional client business of Henderson Crosthwaite, the broking firm, and White and Cheesman, the jobbers, which GPG has bought.

● Guinness Mahon, which includes the accepting house, along with corporate finance, treasury business, capital markets and private clients.

● GPG Investments, where the group will manage its investments in areas such as property and energy, and development capital activities.

Mr Morton said yesterday that he is searching for people to occupy several key positions in the group's new structure.

Sears buys Milletts Leisure for £12m

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

THE SEARS group, which has some 4,500 retail outlets in the UK and overseas, is buying the 122-strong Milletts Leisure Shops chain in an agreed deal worth £11.8m.

Milletts, a long-established leisurewear and camping equipment retailer, faced difficult trading during the past year because of fierce high street competition and poor sales last winter caused by the mild weather.

Turnover in the 53 weeks to February 3 1986 rose only slightly from £23.06m to £26.28m while trading losses, including discontinued operations, escalated from £471,000 to £1.7m. After asset sales, pre-tax profits came to £15,000.

The move by Sears, which owns Selfridges in London and British Shoe Corporation, did not dampen stock market speculation yesterday about the possibility of a bid for Sears itself. Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, Sears chairman and chief executive, said last night, we did not know of any bids and had received no approach.

Milletts's retail operations were founded earlier this century and subsequently split into a number of different trading companies owned by various members of the Millett family.

Sears already owns some 65 Milletts shops operated as part of its Foster menswear division.

The Chelsea Boy division of Milletts, sitting at the youth market and which operates in Scotland, will be developed to complement the menswear division.

Sears says it is confident that its retail and property expertise, together with its financial strength, will enable the full potential of Milletts's retailing activities to be realised.

Sears is offering 11 new ordinary shares for every six ordinary shares of Milletts. Last night's closing price for Sears of 124p, down 2, that values each Millett's share at 227.33p against a closing price of 215p up 25p, valuing the total offer at £11.8m.

Sears has obtained irrevocable undertakings from Mr Alan Millett, who owns some 24.41 per cent of the shares, and his family and family trusts, which gives Sears total control of 56.34 per cent.

See Men and Matters

Ibstock Johnsen calls for £23m to cut borrowings

BY TERRY GARRETT

Ibstock Johnsen, facing brick manufacturer, is calling on its shareholders for a £23m cash injection with a one-for-four rights issue to tidy up its balance sheet.

For a capital intensive company operating in a cyclical industry, Ibstock is too heavily borrowed according to Mr Ian Maclellan, finance director.

Including a projected spend of around £3m to £10m this year, capital expenditure in the three years to December 31, 1986 will total about £37m, including the Hanley Brick acquisition, compared to depreciation charges of £14m.

But for the rights issue net debt at the year end would have been around £35m against shareholders' funds of £65m, suggesting gearing of almost 55 per cent. Post the rights issue that figure will be between 15 and 20 per cent by December.

The proceeds will also, according to Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, chairman, give the group sufficient flexibility to expand where "opportunities exist for above average returns on capital" although a bid is not imminent.

Commenting on the trading



Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, chairman of Ibstock Johnsen

outlook for the current year, after a £1.06m fall in pre-tax profits to £11.36m in 1985, the directors are now confident that the outlook for the current year is good.

In spite of poor weather in the early months, brick deliveries to the end of May were running ahead of those in the corresponding period.

The US operation has made a very satisfactory start to the current year with both volume and prices much improved on 1985. After years of indifferent performance the US business turned in a profit of £11.5m last year.

Mr Angus Phaire, an analyst with broker Fielding Newsome, believes that the US business could contribute £2m before interest and tax this year. He is lifting his target for full year profits to £15.75m taking in the benefit of the rights proceeds (£22.5m after expenses). After a 26 per cent tax charge that indicates earnings per share of 16.7p.

The rights, priced at 145p a share, prompted a 10p slip in the market price to 108p where Mr Phaire rates the shares as a "gentle buy, but there is no need to be aggressive."

The directors are not making any forecasts for the current year other than saying that the interim dividend will be lifted by 13.3 per cent to 1.7p a share. The issue has been underwritten by Lazard Brothers and Cazenove are brokers. Dealings in the nil paid shares start on Thursday. See Lex

LIT 11% higher at £4.75m

IN SPITE of the effects of the weaker dollar, the London Investment Trust, Industrial holding company, raised pre-tax profits by 11 per cent from £4.28m to £4.75m for the year ended March 31 1986.

The group has made a good start to the current year with management figures indicating a significant improvement in profits for the first three months.

The directors say the group continues to have a strong and liquid balance sheet with net assets in excess of £17m.

As a result of facilities negotiated during the past 12 months, they say the group is well placed to permit expansion of its existing operations through the further provision of capital, and to take advantage of investment opportunities as and when they occur.

Turnover in 1985-86 rose 35 per cent from £26.22m to £35.29m. After tax of £1.75m (£1.72m) earnings per 5p share climbed from 2.85p to 3.3p. The net dividend is stepped up to 1.58p (1.15p) net with a final of 0.82p.

The main feature of the year was an excellent performance by the group's UK futures and options division, Bailey Shatkin, the directors state. There was a change in emphasis whereby an increasing proportion of its business is now transacted in the US markets and in financial futures in London and Chicago.

During the year, Bailey Shatkin Securities was set up to handle international securities business and this is now trading profitably.

Shatkin Trading Company, which operates as a clearing and broking firm on the main futures and options exchanges in Chicago, experienced a decline in profitability for the first time, due mainly to pressure on margins within the industry.

Ridley Shatkin Securities developed well during the second half of the year and reported good profits. While continuing its clearing services on the Chicago Board Options Exchange and the Midwest Stock Exchange, Ridley has diversified into options and securities broking, specialising in providing a quality service to institutional clients.

Other principal activities—financial services provided by Centrespur Group and the investment and treasury functions of head office—both reported increased profits.

Reed's £6.5m profit on French disposal

Reed International, the paper, publishing and packaging conglomerate, has sold its 25 per cent stake in Compagnie Européenne de Publications, the leading French business publisher, to a group of French investors associated with the company. Reed said it had made a £6.5m profit on the sale.

Compagnie Européenne made £14.8m (£FR 160m) on £268m (£FR 2.9bn) turnover in 1985. Reed said it was disposing of the stake in order to concentrate on expanding its English language publishing interests.

Seagram ahead at £35m

Seagram Distillers, the Chivas, Glenlivet and Glen Grant whisky group, raised its turnover from £298.91m to £342.1m and its pre-tax profits by £9.88m to £36.1m in the year ending January 31, 1986.

Demand for the group's products continued to show increases, particularly in the UK, Europe, Asia and Africa. In Spain, the results of the Sandeman operations were encouraging. The group is a subsidiary of the Seagram Company through Seagram Holdings.

Morgan Grenfell

The FT yesterday reported incorrect financial statistics for Morgan Grenfell in connection with its flotation by tender. In fact, it increased earnings per share by 43 per cent to 36p in the year to December 31, based on fully disclosed profits before tax which increased from £46.4m to £66.8m.

THE PERFORMANCE

TOP 500 1970-1986

Since 1970 The Banker has researched and published the annual list of the 500 largest commercial banks in the world. As this data is the most comprehensive and reliable information available, it is a valuable tool for departments worldwide who believe that the historic performance of all the banks which have been included throughout the long period, we have been publishing the research would be a considerable asset.

The Banker will, therefore, be publishing in its forthcoming August issue the list of the 500 largest banks since 1970 up to the current year. Over the long period, the influence of currency movements against the US dollar has played a major part in the ranking of banks, we are therefore, attempting the ranking by country. The Bank will also be publishing the individual performance of its own bank's country's economy. We are sure that this information will become a valuable record, along with the Top 500 data in this issue, and be used by bank and corporate treasurers throughout the year.

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Whitecroft's £25m offer for Eleco

BY CHARLES BACHELOR

Whitecroft, a mini-conglomerate engaged in building supplies, lighting and property development, yesterday launched a £25m all-share takeover bid for Eleco Holdings, another conglomerate with a similar range of businesses. Eleco immediately rejected the offer.

The bid was accompanied by an announcement from Whitecroft that its pre-tax profit fell from £7.46m to £7.26m in the year ended March 1986 on turnover which rose from £101.7m to £104m.

Whitecroft is offering three of its own shares for every five of Eleco. Whitecroft's shares closed unchanged at 345p to value the bid at 147p per share. Eleco's shares rose 10p to 150p. 3p above the bid price, Whitecroft already owns 1.9 per cent of Eleco.

Eleco's activities include the manufacture of cable trunking, power supply systems and lighting products; the construction of industrial and commercial buildings and houses; and the management of industrial estates. It made a pre-tax profit of £2.2m on turnover of £25.8m in the year ended June 1985 and had net assets of £21.3m at that year end.

In the first half of the current year, pre-tax profits of Eleco rose to £1.01m (£810,000) on turnover up 51 per cent to £14.7m.

Mr Tom Weatherby, White-

croft chairman, said the manufacturing and distribution arms of the two companies' electrical and building products businesses would complement each other. Whitecroft's Northern-hemisphere housebuilding operations would complement those of Eleco in the South.

Whitecroft would review Eleco's property portfolio, valued at about £14m, and probably dispose of mature rented properties.

Whitecroft believes it can improve the return on capital of Eleco by about 10 per cent. Whitecroft currently makes a 20 per cent return.

The timing of the offer was partly dictated by Whitecroft's recent disposal of two small timber businesses which were taking up a lot of management time. It attempted to get Eleco's agreement to a bid at a meeting on June 4 but was rejected.

Eleco yesterday criticised the industrial logic of the bid and the Whitecroft management's ability to improve Eleco's profits in the light of Whitecroft's own recent flat profits performance.

Despite the downturn in last year's profit, Whitecroft increased its dividend payment from 7.7p to 8.4p. Profits for the year to date are well ahead. Whitecroft is advised by J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Eleco by S. G. Warburg.

Broad Street Associates in talks with Staneco

BY DAVID GOODHART

Broad Street Associates, the high-profile public relations group which has established a formidable reputation during the recent take-over wave, is now taking to the acquisition trail.

Modelling itself on its oldest client, Saatchi and Saatchi, it is seeking to go public through a reverse takeover of a small, unprofitable, manufacturing company, Staneco, which makes heating equipment.

The two companies yesterday said discussions were taking place about a possible merger. But they added: "It is emphasised that, despite press speculation, discussions are still at an early stage and the boards of the two companies will now begin their consideration of how such a merger, if concluded, could effect their future development."

Nevertheless Broad Street, which has never made a secret of its long-term plan to go public, hopes to have completed the deal with USM-quoted Staneco by the end of July with a view to officially merging in the third week in August.

According to Mr John Coyle, a Broad Street director, his company will dominate the joint board and hold between 70 and 80 per cent of the stock. Soon after the deal is completed the heating equipment business, which made a loss of £70,000 on turnover of £547,000 in the six months to August 1985, is likely to be disposed of.

Broad Street plans to start making acquisitions in its own field of media and communications. The original idea for the deal came from Mr David Landau.

who became chairman of Staneco last January when he and stockbroker Mr Peter Beswick bought the 60 per cent stake held by Pavilion International.

He said: "We have been seeking to diversify and Broad Street seemed an interesting company in an interesting field. They are profitable but without assets, we have assets without earnings."

Staneco's assets are about £2m, but it also recently raised £1m cash through a private placing, diluting the stake of Mr Landau and Mr Beswick to about 35 per cent.

There does appear to be some opportunity for a breakdown in the negotiations between Mr Landau and the four Broad Street shareholders, Mr Brian Basham and Mr Michael Preston, who co-founded the company in 1977, and Mr John Coyle and Mr Barry Phelps, who joined in 1981 and 1984.

For example Mr Landau thought it "more than likely" that he would remain as chairman and said there was no present intention to sell the manufacturing company. Both points were met with less than full support in the Broad Street camp.

Broad Street certainly has superior financial power. It has advertising billings of about £6m a year and turnover of £1.5m a year from its regular clients and about £1m from "crisis PR," that is expected to produce pre-tax profit to the end of October this year of between £1m and £800,000.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

		6.75	12	11.25
Avana Group	7	Aug 7	7.2	6.5
Brown & Tawse	3	1.25	2.7	2.7
Burns & McDermott	1.9	1.65	2.75	2.25
J. Cropper	2.3	—	3.5	—
First Security	2.5	—	3.5	—
FKB Group	2.25	—	2.5	0.91*
Hillingworth Morris	2	Aug 29	0.91*	2.5
Jarvis Porter	0.83	Jul 30	2	1.16
London Investment	3.2	Aug 27	0.72	1.3
G. Rudolph	1.15	Aug 22	0.72	4.6
Seamantec	7.6	Aug 22	0.8*	1.65
D. Thwaites	5	Oct 1	7.6	7.1
Volax	5	—	9	7.5
Whitbread	5.4	—	8.4	7.7

* Dividends shown in pence per share except where otherwise stated. * Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ USM stock. † Unquoted stock.

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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CONDITION FOR THE BANK AND ITS SPECIAL CREDIT SECTIONS AS AT 31-12-1985

(BILLIONS OF IT. LIRE)

TOTAL RESOURCES 92,250 (+8%), NET WORTH 2,731 (+33%),
LOAN CONTINGENCY FUNDS 1,609 (+9%),
TOTAL DEPOSITS IN ITALIAN LIRE & FOREIGN CURRENCY 79,115 (+6%),
CASH LOANS IN ITALIAN LIRE & IN FOREIGN CURRENCY 64,150 (+14%),
GROSS SURPLUS 775 (+29%), NET PROFIT 241 (+61%).
GROUP STAFF 25,379, 1,503 OF WHICH EMPLOYED IN QUASI-BANKING COMPANIES.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Reorganisation boosts IM
as profits advance 50%

THE RESULTS of reorganisation, benefits from £10m capital investment and stronger controls have helped Illingworth Morris increase its pre-tax profits by almost 50 per cent in the year to end-March 1986.

The Bradford-based textile manufacturer achieved the increase from £4.15m to £6.15m on turnover up at £98.24m (£93.04m). Earnings per 20p share came out at 11.2p (9.6p) and the final dividend is raised to 2.25p against an adjusted single payment last time of 0.91p to make a total for the year of 3.5p.

The directors say the group is on target with the three-year plan prepared at the time of the takeover at the end of 1983. The reorganisation has been completed within the forecast and profits are ahead of projections.

They add the annual report, which will be available in the near future, will reveal a further substantial improvement in liquidity and that the group has a positive cash position.

The group is looking at ways of maximising the sales of its products. The directors say that the strength of the brand names, which include Crombie, and technological supremacy in certain areas has assisted in implementing the marketing policies.

Operating profit was £5.47m (£4.15m) with other income of



Mr Alan Lewis, chairman and chief executive of Illingworth Morris.

£1.11m (£890,000) and interest charges more than halved at £407,000 (£927,000). The tax charge was £1.52m (£104,000), minorities took £102,000 (£94,000), there were extraordinary credits of £456,000 (£229,000) and dividends absorbed £1.49m (£462,000) to leave retained profit at £3.52m against £3.74m last time.

● comment

When the Soviet Union's elite takes the salute at the May Day parade the chances are that most will be wearing one of Illingworth Morris' Crombie coats. But the effective exploitation of the Crombie brand name still remains a promise for the future—so far there are no retail outlets and the knitwear range has yet to reach the shops. The core businesses therefore remain worsteds, woolcombing and sports goods (tennis balls and snooker table baize). All of these have responded well to Alan Lewis' treatment over the last three years and, mainly due to further cost savings, should grow enough in 1986-87 to enable pre-tax profits to reach £6.9m and there could be hidden plusses in the property portfolio.

Future earnings growth will have to come from expanding the company's direct relationship with the market—place—close links with K & S and other multiples have already enabled Illingworth to design yarn to the customers' specification and win orders at good margins. However, an inability to claw back tax losses is expected to see the charge climbing up again this year, to 30 per cent, and earnings will therefore struggle to pass last year's 11.2p per share. The shares closed 1p at 127p.

Hanson
in £26m
US clothing
disposal

By Lionel Barber

Hanson Industries, the US arm of Hanson Trust, the acquisitive UK industrial holding company, has sold the Shephard Clothing Company to a group of investors including the company's management, in a deal worth up to \$99.25m (£26m).

Hanson is to receive \$33m, of which \$28m has been paid in cash. Hanson could get a further \$6.25m depending on the level of future profitability.

Shephard manufactures men's sports coats and suits. In the year to September 1985, it had sales of around \$45m and reported pre-tax profits of \$3.8m. Shephard is part of Carisbrook Industries, Hanson's textile and fabrics business in the US. Last year, Carisbrook reported a fall in pre-tax profits to \$15m (£20.4m). Hanson blamed a strong dollar and competition from unrestricted imports.

In Hanson Trust's 1985 annual report, Shephard is said to have contributed significantly in its first full year in the Carisbrook division. "Cost reductions and a less overstocked position by retailers will hopefully bring an improvement in 1986," the report said.

First Security's initial results
show 74% increase to £1.4m

BY ALICE RAWSTHORN

First Security Group, the automotive safety and fire detection group which is the subject of a takeover bid from British Car Auctions, reports a 74 per cent increase to £1.37m in pre-tax profits for the year to April 30.

The company brought forward the publication of its preliminary results—its first set since flotation in June last year—because of the BCA bid. First Security's turnover rose by 51 per cent to £821m, reflecting increased sales across all three core divisions: automotive sensors, security and fire equipment. The company produced earnings per share of 11p and a dividend of 3.5p.

According to the chairman, Dr Fred Westlake, all three divisions have begun the year with healthy order books. The automotive sensor division will continue to be the key growth area, having won its first orders for General Motors—for Opel in Europe and AC Delco in the US—since the end of the last financial year.

In the current year, First Security intends to expand automotive sensor sales in Europe. Within fire and security equipment it will concentrate on new product development by designing a new generation of "intelligent" devices.

BCA mounted a takeover bid for First Security in early May. BCA's chairman, Mr David Wickins, was the joint owner of Midepsa, the Canadian investment company which owned First Security until it went public last year. First Security's flotation was badly undersubscribed—the underwriters were left with 92 per cent of the shares—BCA began to buy First Security shares early this year and in May its holding accounted for 45 per cent of the equity.

Under the terms of the City Code on takeovers, BCA was forced to make an offer for the remaining shares in issue. It did so by making a mandatory offer at 150p a share, this compares with the market value of yesterday's share price of 155p. The First Security board does not oppose the bid—given that BCA controls so high a proportion of its equity it would be futile to do so—but advises shareholders to hold on to their shares or to sell in the market rather than to BCA.

Should BCA secure control of First Security, it intends to run it as an autonomous company, retaining the independent listing and leaving the executive board intact. The first closing date for the BCA offer is July 1.

Brownlee
receives
two bid
approaches

By Lionel Barber

Brownlee, the Glasgow-based timber and builders' merchant, has received two unsolicited bid approaches which could lead to an offer.

Brownlee shares closed at 100p, up 28p on the day, valuing the business at almost £16m.

Last week, Brownlee revealed a drop in pre-tax profits from £2.6m to £181,000 for the year ended March 1986.

The two approaches have both come in the past fortnight, Brownlee said yesterday. Mr A. M. Nicol Brownlee, managing director, declined to comment on whether the predators were involved in the timber trade.

Last August, Brownlee paid £700,000 for W. Lane, a Paisley-based timber merchant. Brownlee said last week that Lane's full potential had yet to be realised due to difficult trading conditions.

Earnings per share for Brownlee fell sharply from 8.3p to 4.1p. The Lane purchase pushed up interest charges for the full year from £37,000 to £185,000. Brownlee is proposing a one for two scrip issue.

McKechie chief hits out
at alleged inaccuracies

BY DAVID GOODHART

DR JIM BUTLER, chairman of McKechie Brothers, which is fighting a £160m bid from Evered Holdings, yesterday said he was "considering his position" over possible legal action in relation to alleged "gross inaccuracies" in Evered's increased offer document.

He takes issue with several points in an Evered list of "McKechie's failures" in particular the claim that five out of McKechie's nine metals companies are loss makers. "That is wildly wrong," said Dr Butler last night although he would not say what the correct number was.

He also refuted the Evered assertion that DMI Rod and Wire, acquired for £6.5m in 1983 and closed in May this year, had contributed "significant losses".

Dr Butler said that after some initial losses due to rationalisation the company had made a contribution to profits.

The Evered assertion that

McKechie's dividend cover had fallen from three times in 1980 to 1.6 times in the 1986 forecast is challenged on the grounds that the latter figure takes into account "something done by no other company I know of," according to Dr Butler.

Some of Evered's positive ideas for transforming McKechie may make more of a dent. Mr Raschid Abdullah, the Evered chairman, says for example that he would "act to retrieve substantial market share losses and margin declines" at Harrison and Craystone, through concentration on product development and marketing.

Evered—which will spend at least £5.6m on expenses if the bid is successful—also said it will be "seeking new markets for McKechie's plastics businesses and reviewing the position with regard to its New Zealand and South African holdings."

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BRITISH LAND has agreed to the acquisition by its listed New York affiliate of a wholly owned subsidiary of British Land, whose principal asset is a 25-storey office building at 90 Broad Street in New York's financial district.

JOHN L. DORE, systems development and project management consultancy, has purchased the Walsall-based Bevan Technology from D. F. Bevan (Holdings). Bevan Technology has developed, and now manufactures and markets, the Companion interactive video (IV) system.

GOLDFIELDS INDUSTRIAL Corporation, 62 per cent-owned South African subsidiary of B. Elliott, has sold its loss-making machine tool and engineering equipment division for £4m. Certain stocks and debtors relating to the division, which accounted for 24 per cent of GIC's turnover, have been retained and are expected to raise £3m.

HAWLEY GROUP, the Bermuda-registered cleaning and services group which has just acquired Pitchard Services Group for £150m, is to pay £4.8m for the private Home Counties Cleaning Group. Just over £4.5m has already been paid, of which £3.6m was in cash and £802,906 through the issue of 692,162 shares. Hawley's share price rose 3p to 120p.

TELEVISION SERVICES International, US film and video production company, has held discussions with the intention of acquiring Visions, a video post-production facility concern.

Rotaflex, the commercial lighting company, yesterday rejected an improved £50m

offer from Emess Lighting as wholly inadequate. S. G. Warburg, Rotaflex's advisers, cast doubt on Emess's superior share rating and the consequent value of its paper offer of around 440p per share. It also said that Emess's cash alternative of 400p per share markedly undervalued Rotaflex, whose shares closed unchanged at 448p.

SOUTHEAST STADIUM has paid £315,000 cash for a one third of an acre site in Hitchin Town Centre. It proposes to carry out a development on this site of 12 self-contained small office buildings.

MANDERS (HOLDINGS) has sold its entire 11.35 per cent holding in Usher Walker.

IEP SECURITIES, Mr Ron Beierley's aggressive company, has purchased another 1.2m shares in Horizon Travel and now has an 11.52 stake, up from 9.13 per cent in early May, in the UK's third largest tour operator. In April, brewing and leisure group Bass increased its stake in Horizon to 25 per cent and injected £8.5m in cash plus some assets into a joint-venture with the tour operator. Horizon's share price closed unchanged at 114p.

PROPERTY TRUSTS' rights issue to raise £2.26m before expenses was 90.8 per cent taken up by shareholders, and there were applications for the remaining shares. The issue by the USM-quoted company of 113.23m A shares of 1p at 2p was part of a capital reconstruction by the company, with which the board is now in a position to proceed. After profits in 1982 and 1983, the company suffered heavy losses in the 15 months to end-March 1985.

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY
WORLD PORTS
Publication Date: 26 September
Copy Date: 12 September

Insertion Guarantee: 22 August

The Financial Times intends to publish a survey on World Ports, the proposed editorial synopsis is set out below:

1. Introduction
2. Equipment
3. Container Sector
4. Bulk Carriers
5. Oil & Gas
6. Labour
7. Passenger Traffic
8. Profiles

All editorial comment should be addressed to the Surveys Editor

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FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

<p>DnC</p> <p>Abaco Investments plc</p> <p>£15,000,000</p> <p>Credit facility to finance acquisitions</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Arlington Securities plc</p> <p>£6,000,000</p> <p>Loan facility to finance development of business park</p> <p>arranged by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Balfour Beatty Developments Ltd/ London & Edinburgh Trust plc</p> <p>£23,000,000</p> <p>Loans to finance property developments at Reading and Guildford</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>
<p>DnC</p> <p>British Caledonian Airways Ltd</p> <p>US\$34,000,000</p> <p>Lease guarantee to finance McDonnell Douglas DC10-30 aircraft</p> <p>provided through Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Essanelle Holdings Ltd</p> <p>US\$8,000,000</p> <p>Loan to finance the management buy-out of the international division of Seligman and Latz Inc.</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Guinness Peat Properties Ltd</p> <p>£12,500,000</p> <p>Funding of Macmillan House Kensington High Street</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>
<p>DnC</p> <p>London Park Hotels PLC</p> <p>£13,250,000</p> <p>Loan for the purchase and refurbishment of the Kensington Park Hotel (formerly the Prince of Wales Hotel)</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Lygtun Ltd</p> <p>£10,000,000</p> <p>Loan facility to finance development of Capatilly Green Business Park, Luton Hoo</p> <p>provided by Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>	<p>DnC</p> <p>Orion Airways Ltd</p> <p>£17,000,000</p> <p>Lease guarantee to finance Boeing 737-300 aircraft</p> <p>provided through Den norske Creditbank PLC</p>

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Volex up 24% with all major divisions ahead

ALL MAJOR divisions of Volex Group made progress in the year to March 31 1986. Pre-tax profits of this maker of electrical controls and communication systems increased 24 per cent from \$4.13m to a record \$5.11m, on turnover up 19 per cent at \$64.1m, against \$54.27m.

The board says the company continues to plan for growth, and anticipates that the current year should produce satisfactory results.

The final dividend is raised to 6p (5p) net for a total payment up from 7.5p to 9p. Stated earnings per 25p share were \$3.8p against 24.1p on a net basis or 27.3p nil basis.

There was no tax charge for the year, compared with \$487,000 previously. Tax provided at the interim stage of \$377,000 has been eliminated, since detailed internal projections indicated that ACT was likely to be recoverable in the

foreseeable future and that no provision was required for deferred tax.

The accessories division's sales volumes were up on the previous year, with a further substantial growth in exports, particularly to the Middle East. Volex Wiring Systems maintained its position and the division more than doubled its capital spending over the previous year.

Volex Pencon sustained its growth record and Volex Raydex realised its targets. Only the small Volex Electronics division has yet to make a significant contribution.

Borrowings, including amounts due under finance leases, increased by \$1.7m during the year to \$7.1m, which gave a gearing level of 3 per cent, a rise of 2 per cent. Working capital increased during the year to support the higher sales volume.

● comment

These results represent turning point in the history of Volex. After three years as a star recovery stock, the company must now take its place in the chorus line of established businesses, with a consequent slowing in the phenomenal price rise which has taken the shares from under 40p in late 1982 to 310p. This year, a return to tax payment of 15 per cent will even on increased profits of \$8m, keep earnings per share flat. But the company is not ex-growth for the management can continue to squeeze costs and expand the overseas sales of the accessories division. In addition, Volex may be tempted to dust off its chequebook and look for an acquisition to add to its existing electronics testing division. On a prospective p/e of 9, the shares no longer look quite so cheap, although the multiple is still on a discount to the rest of the sector.

Promotion and launch costs peg Ruddle

ON TURNOVER up 7 per cent from \$10.48m to \$11.24m pre-tax profits for G. Ruddle and Company were only 2 per cent higher at \$1.05m for the year to March 29 1986, against \$1.03m.

Directors of the Rutland-based brewer state: however

that the profit was struck after \$131,000 for an experimental television advertising campaign and \$29,000 written-off for old plant and equipment. The development and launch costs of its new best bitter were also absorbed in the figures.

After much higher tax at

\$467,000 (\$301,000) the earnings per 10p share were 15.5p to 12.2p. A final payment of 3.2p (2.75p) is being recommended, making a total for the year of 4.6p (4p).

Mr Tony Ruddle, chairman explains the higher tax charge was due to a fall in capital spending during the year so that depreciation was higher than capital allowances. He expects the charge to return to normal levels in the future.

He adds that at the year end cash balances were £1m and further cash reserves are expected to be created during the year.

Of the present year, he says, that the benefits of recent capital spending are coming through and the year has started well with improved demand in all sectors.

● Daniel Thwaites, unquoted Blackburn brewer, reported pre-tax profits up at \$3.31m (\$3.05m) on turnover at \$44.94m (\$40.48m). The tax charge was little changed at \$1.14m (\$1.18m) and there were profits on property disposals of \$1.08m (\$203,000). The dividend is 7.5p (7.1p).

T & N buy-out company for USM

By Philip Coggan

Bipol, a west Midlands engineering group formed in 1981 through a management buy-out of Turner & Newall's engineering division, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market via a \$2.2m share placing.

Exactly 30 per cent of the share capital is being placed by Birmingham brokers Roy James and Co. in the form of a 6m 5p shares at 37.5p each.

The price indicates a market capitalisation of around £7.5m.

The company has two main areas of business. The core is the design and assembly of compression presses for the rubber and plastics moulding industries, plus the rebuilding of existing Bipol machinery. Over 50 per cent of such sales go to the US.

In the last two years, Bipol has diversified by making two acquisitions in the field of packaging machinery. IDP and Carrington Packaging, both based in Lancashire. Turnover in the two companies now represents around a third of the group total.

The proceeds of the placing will enable the company to make further acquisitions, possibly adding a "third leg" to the moulding and packaging divisions.

Of the 6m shares being placed, 4.5m are being sold by existing shareholders, namely the directors and investors in the industry. After the float, the management will hold 60 per cent and \$1 10 per cent.

The remaining 1.5m shares are new and will net the company approximately \$229,000 after expenses.

Bipol has forecast profits for the year ending December 31, 1986 of net less than \$1.5m, compared with \$974,000 in 1985. On a weighted average of 19.25m shares in issue, the shares are on a prospective p/e of around 9.5.

The directors intend to recommend a final net dividend of 0.6125p, to be paid in April 1987. Had the shares been traded on the USM for the full year, the total dividend would have been 1.225p for a yield of 4.87 per cent.

Dealings in the shares start next Monday.

New products give boost to Scantronic Holdings

SUBSTANTIAL increases in both turnover and pre-tax profits are reported by Scantronic Holdings, manufacturer of electronic data communication equipment, for the year to March 31, 1986.

Pre-tax figures of this USM company were up from \$709,101 to \$982,114, and turnover rose from \$2.55m to \$4.5m.

The directors say the year has been one of significant growth and change in the group's activities. It has continued to increase its sales of communication equipment, and has successfully promoted a number of its own developed products into the security and health care monitoring markets.

Mr T. V. Buffett, the chairman, says the group's continuing success is reflected by sales orders and turnover to date, which substantially exceed those for the comparable period last year. This performance, together with the group's plans

for expansion, enables the board to look forward with confidence to a year of continuing progress.

In the second half of the year, the group's new intruder alarm control panels and Home-link medical alert system products contributed strongly to sales and earnings. The combined sales of these products accounted for approximately 31 per cent of the group's turnover for the year.

The majority of these sales were in the UK where the products were initially introduced. In overseas markets, where the group is strongly represented, many of the necessary approvals required by relevant authorities have been obtained, and distributors are being instructed on the technical features of these products.

A final dividend of 1.15p net makes a total of 1.65p (adjusted 1.27p). Stated earnings per share were 5.73p against 4.36p.

Greenwich Cable ready to move into the black

FOLLOWING reduced first-half losses, Greenwich Cable Communications says current indications are that it will move into profit during the second six months. This would be the first time since its quotation on the USM in 1982. The shares closed 2p higher at 22p.

Net losses for the six months to February 28 1986 were cut from \$230,000 to \$101,000, representing a deficit per 25p share of 4p (4.6p). Turnover increased to \$230,000 (\$140,000), already ahead of the previous full year's \$315,000.

Substantial cost savings have been introduced, which have

had the effect of reducing both staff levels and general costs. The full impact of these measures should benefit the group in 1987.

Referring to Greenwich Satellite, the board says that it had received legal advice that no contract existed between Carrick Communications and the company.

However, since that date, the board has been advised that a contract did in fact exist and accordingly, the company has proceeded to enter a joint venture whereby it owns 50 per cent of Satellite.

NOTICE to the holders of the following Notes (the "Notes")

Issued by The Walt Disney Company (formerly known as "Walt Disney Productions") (the "Company"):

ECU 80,000,000 9 1/4% Notes due 1995

ECU 62,500,000 8 3/4% Notes due 1994

The Company and the Fiscal Agent have executed amendments concerning each of the Notes (the "Amendments"). Each Amendment deletes the requirement that no additional debt of the Company be issued (with stated exceptions) unless the relevant Notes are secured equally and ratably with such debt and substitutes the requirement that:

either (1) the Notes are secured equally and ratably with such additional debt or (2) the Notes are secured by other collateral having (in the written opinion of an independent financial expert of recognized standing acceptable to the Fiscal Agent) a value equal to at least 15% of the value of the aggregate principal amount of Notes outstanding on the date such new mortgage is granted and (in the written opinion of an independent financial expert of recognized standing acceptable to the Fiscal Agent) the security granted to the holders of the Notes places the Notes in a better secured position than they would have been had they been equally and ratably secured pursuant to clause (1) of this sentence.

Further information, or a copy of the text of either of the Amendments, may be obtained by contacting the Company at the following address:

The Walt Disney Company
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New Issue

All these securities having been sold, this advertisement appears as a matter of record only

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WIMPEY

Jarvis Porter hits target and seeks growth areas

Jarvis Porter Group has met the profits forecast made in its offer for sale prospectus and is paying the promised dividend of 2p net per 10p share.

At the pre-tax level profits for the year to February 28 1986 pushed ahead to £2.53m, an improvement of 10 per cent over the previous year's £2.3m (the group is a printer and designer of labels, flexible packaging and promotional products).

Its offer for sale was oversubscribed 95 times and attracted subscriptions totalling £504m. The directors forecast that profits would be in the region of £2.5m. Listing for the shares was granted last March.

Although 1986-87 has started slowly the directors are confident, because of the strengthened management structure and benefits expected from new equipment.

They say they are seeking to expand existing markets and looking at new areas for growth. The past year saw group turnover rise from £18.9m to £22.3m and operating profits by £216,000 to £244m. Net interest income improved to £93,000 (£78,000) but tax took £50,000 more to £96,000.

Earnings came through 1.4p higher at 8.5p a share. During the year the group

continued its policy of investment in up-to-date technology for the production of high quality labels and flexible packaging.

Plant and machinery costing some £1m was brought into operation, in addition to which progress payments of £200,000 were made on equipment that will be installed during the current year.

In November 1985 John Waddington, the packaging and games group, appointed Jarvis Porter as sole UK and Eire licensee to develop in co-operation and market in competition with Waddington its Mono-Web labelling system.

This is a self-adhesive reeled system but without the necessity for the release backing paper.

There will be no contribution to profits in the current year from this development but the directors say initial interest provides optimism for the future.

The group generated a profit of £120,000 from the sale of its small leasing subsidiary.

Comment
Jarvis Porter was fated never to live up to the hype surrounding its flotation, when a prosaic packaging company's offer was oversubscribed 95 times. This,

combined with a far from optimistic chairman's statement took its toll on the share price which fell by 5p to 140p yesterday. Jarvis Porter's problem is that however imaginative its product development programme or competitive its price structure, demand for its packaging is dictated by the pace of retail sales, and retail sales have been distinctly lacklustre in the opening months of the current financial year.

This problem is compounded by the pressure imposed on margins by increased use of costly vinyls and plastics at a time when the declining oil price has not yet been reflected in the cost of raw materials. Nonetheless the company has compensated for the pressure on margins by winning new business with its first contract for the Nestlé Company. The City expects profits of £2.5m for 1986-87 producing a prospective p/e of 13, which is fairly valued unless retail sales recover.

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the acquisitive food and furnishing manufacturer, is to buy Church Farm Turkeys (Highleigh) in a cash deal worth £1.37m. Church Farm's net asset value was £182,000 at April 30 1985.

Strong organic growth at FKB

IN ITS first year as a public company, FKB Group, the USM quoted sales promotion agency, posted pre-tax profits of 67 per cent from £288,000 to £1.44m. The increase was wholly attributable to organic growth.

Turnover for the year ended March 31 1986 grew 44 per cent to £10.24m. Stated earnings per 5p share rose from 5.5p to 9.45p, and there is a dividend of 2.5p net for the year.

Mr Alfred Singer, the chairman, says the current year has started well and the two new subsidiaries, Castle Sales Promotion and Wade Ferrey, are expected to make a positive contribution to profits in their first full year as part of the group.

Mr Singer says the year's growth has been achieved without contribution from acquisitions, having come from companies already in the group at the beginning of the year, including those which were still relatively new start-ups at the time of the flotation in July 1985.

At the interim stage, the company reported that it was in dispute with a client on one of its projects, but this situation has since been amicably resolved.

New business gains since the year-end include two Government departments, Virgin Holidays, Bristol Myers and Embassy Hotels. The group has also been re-appointed by the Department of Energy for a further year.

The shares closed unchanged at 243p.

Brown & Tawse hit in second half by pause in economy

Brown and Tawse Group raised its profits from £5.36m to a record £5.73m pre-tax in 1985-86 despite what the directors describe as an unexpected pause in the economy during the final quarter.

Profits in the second half were stable at £2.82m. It is pointed out that the pause was not generally forecast and was contrary to the prediction that the fall in oil prices would be good for the economy. Shareholders are told, however, that the benefits of lower oil prices may only have been postponed.

In spite of sales being held back during the second six months turnover for the full year (to March 31 1986) exceeded £100m for the first time and at £102.91m showed an improvement of 13 per cent over 1984-85's £91.1m.

After a little-changed tax charge of £2.16m (£2.22m) earnings came through 2p higher at 16.9p and a final dividend of 5p (4.5p) making a total of 7.2p, a rise of 0.7p.

The group, an industrial dis-

tributor of pipeline, steel and industrial products, made steady progress during the year making further acquisitions in related products. Subsequent action has been taken to expand these acquisitions by opening further branches.

The directors say that at year-end a radical reorganisation of the various trading companies within the group was carried out.

Broadly, they were rationalised into appropriate divisions, creating product or regional units. The new structure has increased management effectiveness and will help to reduce operating costs.

Looking ahead, the directors say although demand for steel products shows little sign of strengthening, prospects for pipeline equipment and industrial products are more favourable. Plant sales have started well following an improvement in demand for construction equipment—in the past year profits from plant sales fell from £387,000 to £216,000.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether the dividends are interim or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY
Interim: KLP, LPA Industries, Nash Industries, Watson and Philip, Pindar, Argyll Group, Anel Industries, Brookmount, Channel Tunnel Investments, Farbrill, Habb Precision Engineering, Helms, Hambro, Heath Care Services, Imperial Continental Gas, John J. Lees, Mansfield Brewery, Recal Electronics, Rothmans International, Wintrust.

FUTURE DATES
Interim: County Properties July 7
First National Finance Corp. June 27
First National Securities June 27
Glasgow Stockholders Trust July 16
Kleinwort Benson Gift Fund July 1
St. Modwen Properties June 26
Final: ASDA-MFI July 21
Caledonia Industries June 27
General Electric July 1
Midland Metals June 27
Robertson Research June 27
S and J Stores June 27
Toothill (R. W.) July 8

Burns-Anderson up 80%

A strong performance by its financial services division helped Burns-Anderson to increase its pre-tax profits by 80 per cent from £369,000 to £664,000 the half-year to March 31 1986.

This holding company, which also has interests in steel reinforcement supplies, motor distribution and shop, offices and bank fittings, had turnover up from £18.58m to £21.77m.

The directors say the profit was also helped by increased

contribution from other divisions of the group. Mr Ivor Black, the chairman, says the second half has commenced encouragingly, and he anticipates a further increase in earnings.

The interim dividend is increased from 1.25p to 1.35p net, and stated earnings per 10p share are 20 per cent higher at 2.3p (1.9p) after taking into account the 35 per cent increase in equity base due to the rights issue and acquisitions of Gordon Squire.

Profits and shares soar at Cropper

An increase in pre-tax profits of almost 24 times by James Cropper, Cumbria-based paper and board manufacturer, saw the shares rise to a record for the year of 335p, up 40p on the day.

Directors say the increase was the result of further rises in output and the cost of raw materials returning to a more normal level.

Turnover for the year to March 29 1986 rose by 9 per cent from £25.14m to £27.48m with pre-tax profits up from £763,000 to a record £1.82m. Earnings per share rose by 26.1p to 44.5p and the directors propose to raise the final dividend from 1.65p to 1.9p, making a total for the year of 2.75p (2.25p).

Operating profits came out at £2.44m (£1.23m) and the pre-tax figure was struck after higher interest charges of £638,000 (£466,000). At the moment the company has a full order book, the directors say, and margins have been maintained despite an increase in raw material costs. They add that once the disruption from rebuilding a machine has been absorbed it is expected that turnover and output will increase further this year.

Oliver Resources reduced its pre-tax losses from £218,816 to £163,301 in the year to October 31 1985. No dividend is being paid. Revenue from oil and gas sales improved from £79,502 to £116,065, and there was a substantial increase from £14,069 to £97,752 from interest and rents receivable.

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For the six months from 24th June, 1986 to 24th December, 1986 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 7 7/8% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 24th December, 1986 against Coupon No. 14 will be U.S. \$185.88 per U.S. \$5,000 Note.
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Div (p)	Gross Yield	P/E	Fully
145	118	Ass. Brn. Ind. Ord.	131	—	7.3	5.6	8.0	7.5
151	121	Ass. Brn. Ind. CUS.	131ad	—	10.0	7.6	—	—
125	43	Arasprng Group	120	—	6.4	5.3	20.0	26.1
46	28	Armstrong and Rhodes	20	—	4.3	14.3	3.7	2.9
173	108	Bardoe Hill	173	—	4.6	2.8	20.2	18.5
77	42	Bray Technologies	77	—	4.3	5.6	9.1	8.3
201	80	CCL Ordinary	80	—	2.9	3.6	5.7	8.9
152	80	CCL Type Conv. Pl.	80ad	—	15.7	18.2	—	—
177	80	Carborundum Ord.	177	—	9.1	5.1	8.6	8.8
85	46	Daborn Services	56	—	7.0	12.5	5.8	7.7
32	20	Frederick Parker Group	22	—	—	—	—	—
112	50	George Blair	107	—	—	—	—	—
68	20	Ind. Precision Castings	67	—	3.0	4.6	15.4	12.7
218	156	Int. Group	161	—	15.0	9.3	12.4	16.5
122	101	Jackson Group	118ad	—	6.1	5.2	8.0	7.2
248	238	James Burrough	248ad	—	17.3	4.9	9.8	8.9
100	85	James Burrough	100	—	12.9	12.9	—	—
35	56	John Howard and Co.	57ad	—	5.0	8.8	—	—
122	50	Menasse Holding NV	120	—	8.7	0.6	45.3	55.7
280	80	Record Highway Ord	280	—	14.1	15.8	—	—
100	88	Record Highway 100pPl	82ad	—	—	—	—	—
62	32	Robert Johnson	75	—	—	—	—	—
34	29	Scuttlings "A"	30	—	—	—	—	—
87	66	Torday and Carlisle	87ad	—	5.7	7.0	4.9	5.0
370	320	Troyan Holdings	327	—	2.9	—	6.7	8.6
57	25	Uniblock Holdings	56a	—	3.1	3.8	15.2	14.9
175	93	Walter Alexander	172	—	3.6	5.0	9.7	11.9
226	190	W. S. Yeates	190	—	17.4	9.2	19.0	21.1



KOREA EXCHANGE BANK

US\$50,000,000
Floating Rate Notes due 1993

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the above notes, notice is hereby given that for the 6-month interest period from 24th June, 1986 to 24th December, 1986 (183 days), the notes will carry an interest rate of 7 7/8% per annum. The interest payable on the next interest payment date on 24th December, 1986, will be US\$7,122.22 per US\$100,000 nominal amount.

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24th June 1986

MANAGEMENT: Small Business

Corporate venturing

Why windows on technology are difficult to open

IT HAS been tried and abandoned many times. It has held out all kinds of promises which in all but a very few cases have proved impossibly elusive—and yet it stubbornly refuses to go away.

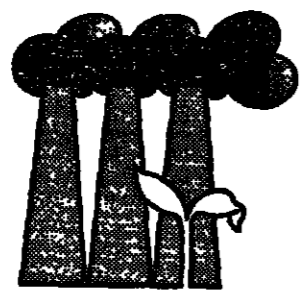
So-called corporate venturing has been attempted over the past 15 years or so with different degrees of success by large companies from Exxon in the US to Britain's Pilkington Brothers and Italy's Olivetti. Companies' reasons for employing this little understood and ill-defined development tool vary, but underlying most of them is a wish to get early access to new technologies while giving their own organisations a dash of entrepreneurial tonic.

Pioneered at the end of the 1960s in the US by 3M and Dupont—which has incidentally taken a big stake in a British venture capital fund—the idea of looking outside the company for new ideas has gradually caught on among a few of the more adventurous European concerns like Rhone-Poulenc, Elf Aquitaine, Ferranti and even Siemens.

Supporters of corporate venturing argue that it is becoming an increasingly important aid to commercial innovation and diversification at a time when many large businesses are finding that their core activities are growing more slowly. The technique is based on the premise that small companies tend to react to market changes and pick up new technologies faster than big ones, so that corporate investors in them are well equipped to latch on to new ideas before everybody else does.

Like so many venture capital buzzwords, the real meaning of corporate venturing is hazy to most people. However, big companies have got involved in venture capital in several distinct ways.

These include investment through funds in a spread of ventures, used by some as a listening post for useful technological developments; direct investment in individual businesses, typically used to cement trading or research links; venture-backed spin-outs, a way to commercialise otherwise redundant research ideas; and purely internal ventures



William Dawkins, in the first of a series, looks at uncertainties surrounding the means by which big companies forge relationships with small concerns to exploit new markets

panies since 1979.

A rarer approach, now being promoted vigorously by 3i (Investors in Industry) in Britain, is to spin off internal research projects in partnership with outside investors. Already practised in a few isolated instances by companies like ICI in its agricultural division and Siemens, so-called sponsored spin-outs will be the subject of an article on this page next week.

But whatever guise corporate venturing assumes—and many groups have taken a mixture of approaches—it points right to the heart of the main difficulty in forming relationships between large and small companies.

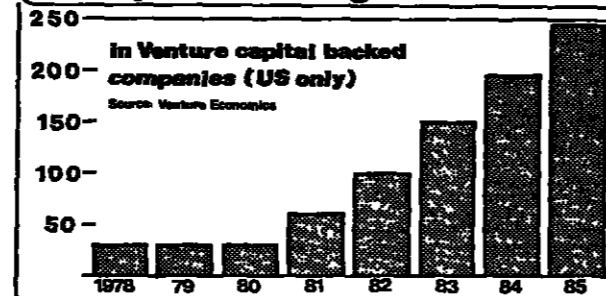
As Exxon's ventures grew, says Sykes, so did the parent's corporate involvement in them. Its attempts to impose big company type controls "was perhaps inevitable, but the way it happened hurt the motivation of key people," he adds. It follows that large companies will have a better

The result is that the temptation to intervene heavily—and ultimately destructively—from above can be overwhelming. That is why some of the most ambitious US attempts at corporate venturing, like General Electric's or Exxon's, for instance, came to grief.

Hollister Sykes, former head of Exxon's new ventures programme until its 37 investments were sold or taken over five years ago, explains in the latest issue of Harvard Business Review: "Exxon's ability to fund rapid growth might seem from the outside to be an enviable advantage. In practice, however, it tended to cushion venture managers from concern about profitability, cost control, focused product development and competitive realities."

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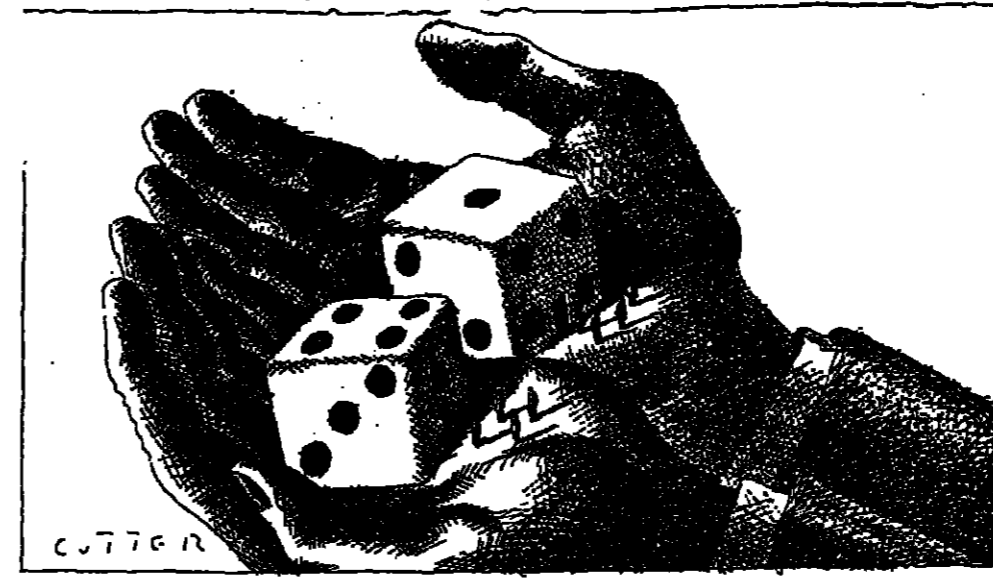
Corporate strategic investments



panies. Such links are very hard to form without jeopardising the entrepreneurial spirit that made the small company an attractive partner in the first place. There are no clear rules for successful corporate venturing, but the experience so far does point to some obvious pitfalls.

Even if small companies can be well equipped by their open management styles and the precariousness of their lives to pick up new ideas fast, they can easily take much longer than their big sponsors would like to commercialise them.

chance of maintaining a sense of creativity and autonomy in their small partners if they take minority stakes. Exxon usually took majority ownership, but it is not alone in feeling the need to keep a controlling position. "Very few British companies understand the benefits of the surrogate relationship," complains Dick Onians, former new ventures manager for Monsanto and now chief executive of Baring Brothers Hambrecht and Quist, the London venture capital group. One that does is Ferranti,



which has restricted its exposure to 10 per cent of any venture in its US fund and has formed apparently harmonious trading links with one of them. Inference, a Los Angeles-based producer of artificial intelligence software, Ferranti has been marketing inference products in Europe for more than a year, an idea which incidentally takes a cue from the marketing links which Olivetti has formed with its US ventures.

Assistance from the larger partner can go even further so long as it is kept at arms' length. It is a difficult balance to maintain, but it can be done, as shown by the relationship between Instem, an electronics group quoted on London's Unlisted Securities Market, and Dobson Park, the fully quoted mining engineer which owns 37.5 per cent of Instem.

The smaller partner has made full use of Dobson Park, which sees it as a strategic investment, but an takeover approach would (for now at any rate) be strongly resisted, says David Gare, Instem's chairman. Apart from selling 15 per cent of its turnover to Dobson, Instem got help from the company's corporate finance department in preparing for its flotation 18 months ago, has just appointed Dobson's technical director to its board and is using the group's strategic planners for acquisition advice.

"Having Dobson around has also given us more credibility with big customers like the National Coal Board (British Coal)," says Gare. Dobson, meanwhile, has not done too badly out of the investment. It paid £250,000 for a 30 per cent stake three years ago—enlarged on flotation—which is now valued at nearly £3m.

Clearly, corporate venturing demands patience and a sensitive touch on the part of the larger partner. But it also requires clarity of purpose. Muddled thinkers tend to hit trouble in venture capital.

Corporate venturing has worked out best where there has been a very narrow and specific focus to the deal," says Norman Fast of Venture Economics, the US research consultancy.

British's Pilkington Brothers provides a telling illustration of how an unfocused corporate venture can lose its way. The glass group is now rethinking a venture capital strategy based on the widely different aims of regenerating the economy of England's north west and seeking diversification outside the group's main business, flat glass.

Its £2.5m Rainford Venture Capital fund has 10 investments, of which only two are performing well, says Peter Shepherdson, group general manager of new opportunities. Ironically non-corporate venturers would see that as a reasonable performance, but "we are not at all satisfied," says Shepherdson. One problem, he believes, is that venture managers' time is as divided as is the fund's strategy. They also run Pilkington divisions and when market conditions are as hard for Pilkington as they are now, it is not surprising that they are less willing to put money into ideas which are outside their main strategies on the off-chance that something profitable might turn up.

related technology, examine potentially useful products and look for opportunities to plug Californian companies into the group's European marketing networks.

The networking idea has not borne fruit yet. But, says Eade: "The fund has gotten us a hell of a lot of open doors in California. People are prepared to tell you a lot about their technology if they think you might give them some money."

In spite of the example set by Thorne EMI Ferranti and others, corporate venturing has never really caught on in Britain. The National Economic and Development Office, which is examining ways to stimulate this kind of activity, can only find eight large British companies active in corporate venturing.

"British companies are just that much less playful than US corporations," complains Onians. By that he means they are less willing to put money into ideas which are outside their main strategies on the off-chance that something profitable might turn up.

The other problem is that large companies, not usually far sighted at the best of times, tend to get positively myopic under pressure. Bruce Lloyd, on secondment from a large UK chemicals group to Northern Investors, a Newcastle upon Tyne venture capital firm, points out: "When things are going well, large companies start looking ahead and investing for the future. But as soon as things start going badly again, priorities change. That means the roots of innovation can never get down far enough for them not to run a high risk of getting cut off if the company runs into bad times."

EEC fund opposition

PLANS by the European Commission to provide Ecu 1.5bn (£860m) in new loans for small and medium sized businesses have run into opposition from EEC member states.

The Netherlands and West Germany are most strongly opposed to the idea, which would involve borrowing money on international capital markets under the so-called New Community Instrument (NCI).

The Commission proposal to this effect has been on the table for more than a year. But in view of the reservations of member states, it has not even been considered by the Economic and Finance Ministers, who have to give their approval. Observers in Brussels give the measure no more than a "50-50" chance of being accepted.

NCI loans have been available since 1979 but only since 1983 have they been targeted at investment projects undertaken by small- and medium-sized businesses. The scheme is administered by the Luxembourg-based European Investment Bank (EIB) which operates a system of "global loans" whereby financial intermediaries like banks and venture capital organisations receive sizeable franchises which are then parceled out in smaller sums on the EIB's behalf.

NCI money, which has been available to small- and medium-sized businesses regardless of location, should not be confused with the EIB's resources which are aimed primarily at small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Community regional development areas.

The appeal of both NCI and EIB funds to small- and medium-sized businesses has lain in the combination of a relatively low interest rate allied to cheap exchange rate cover as insurance against currency movements. Last year, however, the UK Government withdrew its exchange rate scheme with the result that NCI and EIB global loans are no longer advantageous.

The Dutch and German argument is that the NCI is an unnecessary duplication of EIB resources and that sufficient funds are available to small and medium sized projects in the commercial markets. Self interest, however, may play a part. The biggest beneficiaries of NCI funds in 1985, for example, were the Italians and the French (with allocations of Ecu 349 and Ecu 302 respectively) with Denmark, Greece and the UK the only other takers.

Tim Dickson

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FT LAW REPORTS

Joint solicitors' account holds premium money for liquidator

IN RE MULTI GUARANTEE CO. LTD.
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Nourse): April 17 1986

MONEY DEPOSITED in a joint solicitors' account is held on resulting trust for the depositor if the terms of withdrawal are uncertain and there is no manifest intention that it is to be held on trust for a particular beneficiary; and accordingly, where a company pays in money representing insurance premiums obtained under its extended warranty scheme and to be held in the account in temporary suspension for no specified purpose, it is not held on trust for participants in the scheme but goes back to the company's liquidator on winding-up.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Vallances Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Harman on a preliminary issue (FT, August 15 1984) that it was not entitled as against the liquidator of Multi Guarantee Co Ltd to £247,410 held in a joint account by solicitors acting for Vallances and Multi Guarantee respectively.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that Multi Guarantee was formed in July 1976 to market extended warranties for domestic appliances and apparatus. Such warranties provided insurance against failure of the goods after expiry of the initial manufacturer's warranty.

In March 1982 Vallances, which owned a substantial chain of shops in the north of England, was approached by Multi Guarantee to market the extended warranty scheme for the benefit of its customers.

Between April and August 1982 Vallances started to operate the scheme. It was begun on a series of clear and repeated assurances given to Vallances by or on behalf of Multi Guarantee that cover had been obtained for the scheme from underwriters at Lloyd's.

The application form signed by Vallances' customers contained a statement that payment must be made through Vallances, and that "the contract of insurance will be arranged and administered by Multi Guarantee".

From that and other indications it appeared possible that the customers were in direct contractual or quasi-contractual relationship with Multi Guarantee and that Vallances merely acted as agent.

On that footing any claims the customers could make for recovery of premiums paid over by Vallances to Multi Guarantee would have lain against Multi Guarantee.

However, as a matter of fair dealing and commercial reality, Vallances had throughout regarded itself as responsible for the protection of its customers' interests.

It was not long before Vallances became dissatisfied with the scheme. After December 2 1982, although it continued to collect premiums from its customers, it made no further payments to Multi Guarantee. By that date it had paid over to Multi Guarantee premiums amounting to £251,033.

After January 6 1983 the monies were retained by Vallances in a separate designated account.

The main reason for taking that course was the publication in the Financial Times of an article which showed it was possible that cover for the Vallances and similar schemes had never in fact been obtained at Lloyd's.

Lloyd's set up an investigation as to the true position.

By January 21 both sides had instructed solicitors. It appeared from the evidence that Vallances requested the return of the money. That was not refused, but it was not agreed to. Vallances' primary concern was said to be to safeguard the premium monies.

At a meeting on January 28 between Vallances and Multi Guarantee, it was agreed that the money currently held by Multi Guarantee would be placed in a joint deposit account with a signature required from both firms of solicitors but with no detailed terms as to the basis of withdrawals.

The transfer into the joint account took place in February 1983. On February 19 Vallances paid just under £500,000 to new insurers to provide alternative insurance cover for its customers. On February 23 Lloyd's wrote to Vallances' solicitors enclosing extracts from the report of the investigation, which showed there was no cover for the Vallances scheme at Lloyd's.

In due course the terms of an agreement under seal to be executed between Multi Guarantee and Vallances dealing with the release of the monies in the joint account were negotiated between the two firms. Those terms provided for the monies to be released to Vallances. The agreement included an indemnity by Vallances in favour of Multi Guarantee against liabilities arising out of insurance claims against Multi Guarantee by Vallances' customers.

The deed was executed by Vallances, but it had not been executed by Multi Guarantee when, on May 20, it presented its own winding-up petition. A winding-up order was made on June 27.

Vallances claimed that Multi Guarantee constituted itself trustee of the £247,410 for the benefit of Vallances. So, it was claimed, the money did not form part of the assets available to satisfy creditors' claims in the liquidation. Mr Justice Harman held that Multi Guarantee did not constitute itself trustee for the benefit of Vallances. Vallances appealed.

In order to succeed on the appeal Vallances must show on the totality of the evidence that the money was transferred to the joint account it effectively divested itself of all beneficial interest therein.

In *re Kayford* [1975] 1 WLR 270 Mr Justice Megarry said that "a trust can be created without using the words 'trust' or 'confidence' or the like: the question is whether in substance a sufficient intention to create a trust has been manifested."

Accordingly the question was whether in substance a sufficient intention to create a trust was manifested by Vallances. It was not, said the court, to be asked whether the intention to create a trust was manifested by Vallances' solicitors. That was not the question. The question was whether in substance a sufficient intention to create a trust was manifested by Vallances.

Although contemporaneous documents might disclose that an intention that the account should be a trust account existed in the mind of Vallances, there was no evidence that it ever existed in the mind of Multi Guarantee.

At all stages between January 4 and January 28 the position was uncertain and it was recognised on all sides that it would remain uncertain until the Lloyd's report had been published.

Mr Crystal for Vallances submitted that Multi Guarantee did manifest a sufficient intention that the money should be used exclusively for one or other of three purposes, none of which could involve its return to Vallances. The money was to be used for the purposes of Multi Guarantee.

Those purposes were, first, payment to Lloyd's underwriters if cover in fact already existed; secondly, payment to other acceptable underwriters with whom cover could be obtained;

and thirdly, repayment to Vallances.

On the contemporaneous documentary evidence there were other possibilities which were in mind, in particular the possibility that Multi Guarantee would need some protection against claims made by Vallances' customers against them direct.

Mr Justice Harman said that the money was held by the solicitors subject to some form of obligation "because they plainly did not hold it for their own benefit, but the exact obligations were never worked out... In the upshot... the money is held by the solicitors... on a resulting trust for the payer... It was held... to await the outcome of uncertain results. The hoped-for outcome is now never capable of being reached and in the circumstances the money results back to Multi Guarantee."

The conclusion as to the joint account was entirely correct and could not be faulted. Multi Guarantee never did manifest a sufficient intention to create a trust and the requisite certainty of words was not there.

On the footing that no trust was created on February 1, Mr Crystal argued that the case was governed by the rule in *ex parte James* (1874) 9 Ch App 609, that the court would direct a trustee in bankruptcy not to insist on his full legal rights if it would be unacceptable for him to do so.

The principle was subject to qualifications of which the most important was that the court would only take that course where it would be dishonest or shabby or the like for the trustee to insist on his full legal rights.

The facts of the present case did not come anywhere near the kind of facts which fell within the principle. It could not be dishonest or even shabby for the liquidator to seek to uphold the interests of the general body of creditors as against Vallances.

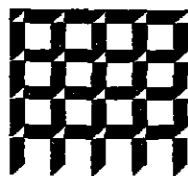
The appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Stephen Brown, agreed. Lord Justice Lawton gave a concurring judgment.

For Vallances: Michael Crystal, QC and Simon Gifford (Hepworth & Chadwick, Leeds).

For the liquidator: John Chadwick, QC, and Elizabeth Glover (Gowder & Chancery).

By Rachel Davies
Barrister

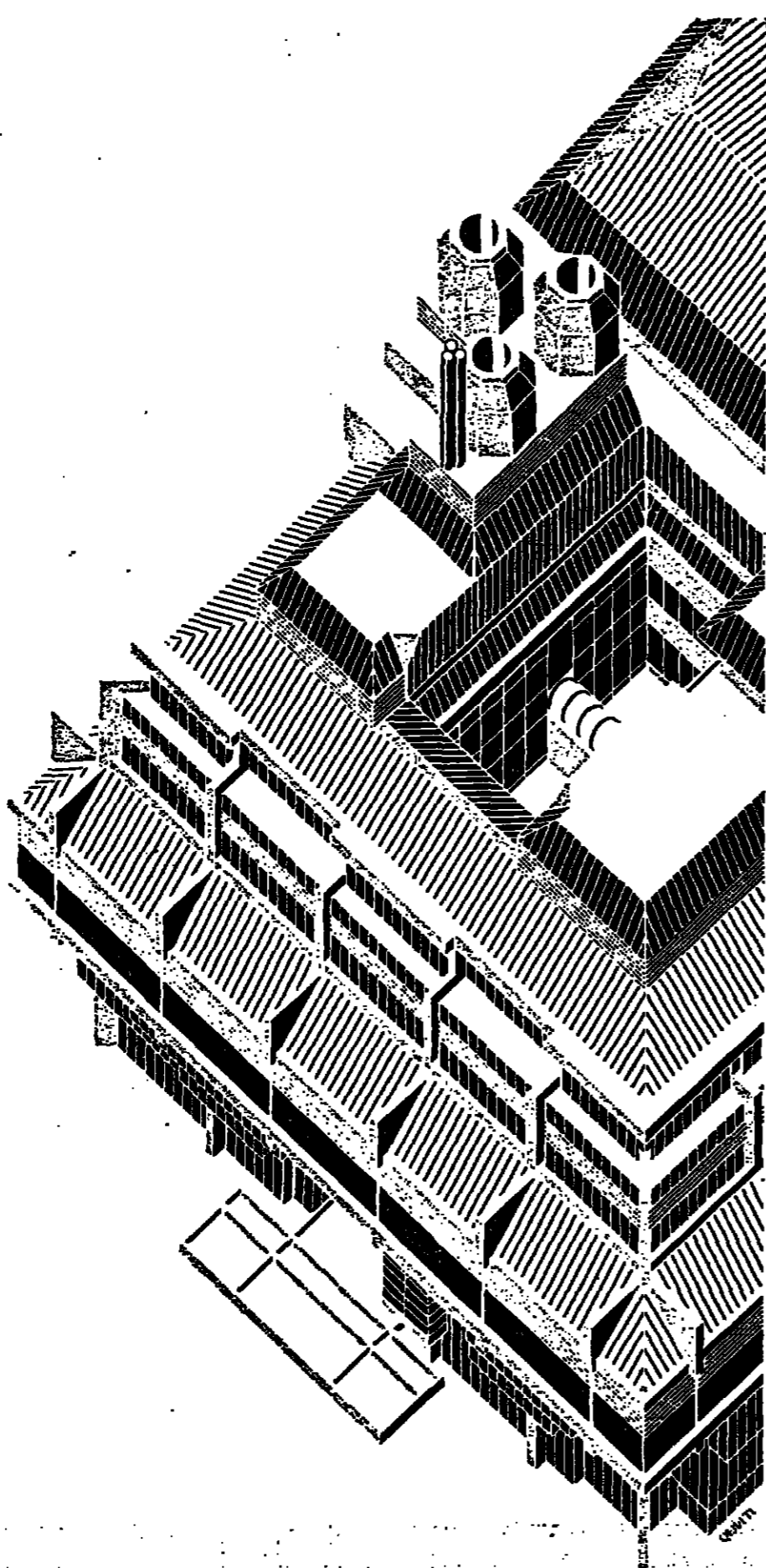


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Dated the 18th day of June 1986.
N. A. LAINE, Director.

INTEGRATED BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 859 of the Companies Act 1985 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of the Creditors at 30 Lambourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 1LP, on Tuesday the 30th day of July 1986, at 12.00 o'clock noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 589 and 590 of the said Act.

Dated this 12th day of June 1986.
By Order of the Board,
D. F. ATKINSON, Director.

K. J. BUILDERS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 859 of the Companies Act 1985 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of the Creditors at 30 Lambourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 1LP, on Thursday the 2nd day of July 1986 at 12 o'clock in the forenoon for the purposes provided for in Sections 589 and 590 of the said Act.

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COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

EEC plans tougher fishing controls

By Tim Dickson in Brussels

THE EUROPEAN Commission is preparing to get tough with countries which flout the EEC's fishing rules. Officials in Brussels hope that Fisheries Ministers meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow will endorse these efforts to step up enforcement of the conservation provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which since its adoption in 1983, has restricted the size of the Community catch.

In particular the Commission now aims to take offending member states to court and is seeking enhanced powers for its own inspectors.

A report completed recently by the Commission singled out the Netherlands, France and Ireland for particular criticism, drawing attention in general to the lack of adequate national measures to implement Community legislation and a range of deficiencies in enforcement performance.

Some member states may therefore show some reticence at tomorrow's meeting but the

UK, which is due to take over the EEC Presidency at the beginning of next month, can be relied on to give strong support to the Commission line.

Under the CFP the Community fixes total allowable catches (TACs) for each species threatened by overfishing, including herring, mackerel, cod, plaice and whiting, which are then divided into national quotas for each member state. On top of this limits are imposed on fishing in certain zones, minimum mesh sizes for nets and in some cases minimum sizes of fish landed.

The application of these measures is primarily the responsibility of member states but the Commission report reveals that:

● France does not take sufficient action to stop its fishermen exceeding their quota limits, does not comply with the main technical measures along a large part of its coast line, and has nothing in the way of results to show from a campaign apparently conducted

in the spring of last year to tighten up enforcement of these requirements. Checks at sea "are relatively infrequent and ineffective" and Commission inspectors are "impeded."

● The record of The Netherlands in failing to prevent overfishing is "the poorest of all member states." The country's catch registration system has proved inadequate with fish sold through the "grey" and "black" markets, fish from stock under pressure attributed to another stock, and certain species (notably mackerel) falsely declared.

● In Ireland the recording system is based on information provided by the buyers with almost no physical control of quantities by control personnel. Fishery officers do not have the right to inspect the books of buyers and instead rely on summary information provided to them on an informal basis, and adequate national provisions for enforcing the technical measures of the conservation policy do not exist.

Surprisingly, in view of these individual abuses, the Commission maintains that overfishing of Community waters is generally not excessive, amounting perhaps to 1-2 per cent of the TAC. But assuming they get the go ahead from Ministers (and a final decision may not be taken tomorrow) officials in Brussels will be drawing up new proposals based on the conclusions of their report.

These are likely to include much greater recourse to the European Court (so far this has been limited only to the most flagrant cases of violation), forcing member states to carry out more of their own inquiries into abuses, and increasing the power of its own inspectors. The Commission, for example, wants its inspectors to have the power to choose for themselves which port, region, or institution is investigated through a spot check, rather than (as at the moment) having to defer to the wishes of a national inspector.

Citrus canker feared in Florida grove

By Mary Frings

FLORIDA'S \$40m citrus industry, which is struggling to overcome the effects of four disastrous freezes in the past five years, faces a new threat with the suspected discovery of canker in a commercial grove near Palmetto, at the southern end of Tampa Bay.

Canker was declared eradicated in Florida in 1933 but reappeared two years ago in nurseries using Swingle Citrumelo rootstock. This is the first time that signs of the highly contagious disease have been detected in a commercial grove, following a ban on the movement of stock from infected nurseries and the destruction of nearly 20m young trees.

Mr. Vicky Boyd of the Florida Department of Agriculture's canker project said in Winterhaven yesterday that laboratory tests on samples from the 20-acre Palmetto Grove, where the canker appears to be widespread, would be completed later this week. She said that "a highly suspicious leaf spot disease" had also been found at 143 residential properties on Anna Maria Island, 10 miles to the west of the grove, but none of the suspected cases involves Swingle Citrumelo rootstock.

If canker is confirmed, the project's action plan calls for the burning of infected trees in situ and defoliation within a 50 foot radius of each one. The disease, distinguishable by a brown lesion with a yellow halo around it, can lie dormant for three years. It attacks leaves, twigs and fruit, weakens the trees and causes premature fruit drop.

UK demand for motor fuel rises by 5.8%

By Max Willmson

DEMAND for motor fuel in the UK rose by 5.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared with a year earlier, according to figures released yesterday by the Institute of Petroleum.

The figures might suggest that motorists were more responsive than expected to the rapid fall in crude oil prices after the turn of the year.

However, UK petrol prices were slow to reflect this fall. In February, the average price of four-star petrol was almost 190p a gallon, little changed from its level in the autumn, before crude prices collapsed.

It was not until April and May that petrol prices fell sharply to as little as 150p or less in some parts of the country, though they have since recovered somewhat.

However, petrol prices were significantly lower in the first quarter of this year than their levels in the same period a year earlier when they reached 200p per gallon.

The Institute's figures show a 5.5 per cent increase in demand for aviation spirit in the first quarter compared with a year earlier, but a 4.4 per cent fall in demand for lubricating oils and greases.

Overall demand for petroleum products was 23.5 per cent lower than a year earlier. This mainly reflects the impact of last year's miners' strike, when demand for fuel oil was much higher than usual.

Broken Hill miners stand firm

By Patricia Newby in Melbourne

A MASS meeting of striking miners at the Broken Hill zinc, lead and silver mines voted overwhelmingly yesterday to continue their opposition to new work practices which mine owners claim would save the mines from closure.

For good measure, the meeting also voted to support a petition which allows for 21 shifts per week will continue before the Full Bench of the Commission tomorrow.

The miners have refused to work under an interim award brought down last month by the New South Wales Industrial Commission, allowing the mines to operate night and weekend shifts.

The mines, which produce around 6 per cent of the Western world's lead and 4 per cent of its zinc, have been closed since May.

The decision to serve management with a log of claims at a time when the very survival of the mine is in doubt is either a huge bluff or a serious miscalculation by the unions of management intentions.

The Broken Hill miners have been clearly buoyed by the success of their coal mining comrades who last week won a significant victory in a pay and conditions by the Coal Industry Tribunal.

The owners of Broken Hill's three major mines, CRA, the Zinc Corporation and North Broken Hill Holdings, have given little if any ground in private talks with the unions. They say significant improvement in productivity must be achieved through changed work practices or mass

renewal, or the mines will close.

Two sets of talks between the parties over the past week at the direction of the New South Wales Industrial Commission have achieved little.

The failure of the talks means that the union's appeal against the interim award which allows for 21 shifts per week will continue before the Full Bench of the Commission tomorrow.

Nickel stocks on the London Metal Exchange fell sharply last week to their lowest level since last November.

The arrival of 900 tonnes of nickel cathodes almost certainly from the Soviet Union, in the exchange's Rotterdam warehouse was far outweighed by the withdrawal of 4,224 tonnes from the same warehouse. Overall, stocks fell by 3,324 tonnes to 4,776 tonnes.

Ugandan coffee farmers and processors are retaining stocks hoping that the new government will increase producer prices in its budget this year. The coffee trade in Kampala, reports Reuters.

Farmers are demanding 900 to 1,000 shillings per kilo of unprocessed coffee from an official buyer, compared with the 850 shillings almost by the state-controlled Coffee Marketing Board.

A government economic package in May raised the producer price from 470s but farmers complain the rate is still only 20 per cent

of the world price.

The Ugandan National Coffee Association said coffee smuggling to countries where prices are higher would continue unless the government approved a further increase.

The recent fall in world prices from peaks earlier this year reduced the prospects of the budget including a large rise for farmers, the government said.

Uganda exports about 150,000 tonnes of coffee a year and relies on the commodity for more than 50 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.

Ugandan coffee stocks retained

Ugandan coffee farmers and processors are retaining stocks hoping that the new government will increase producer prices in its budget this year. The coffee trade in Kampala, reports Reuters.

Farmers are demanding 900 to 1,000 shillings per kilo of unprocessed coffee from an official buyer, compared with the 850 shillings almost by the state-controlled Coffee Marketing Board.

A government economic package in May raised the producer price from 470s but farmers complain the rate is still only 20 per cent

Sheep farmers under the shadow of Chernobyl



By John Cherrington

FOR THE sheep farmers of Cumbria, North Wales, and the Isle of Man, the announcement in February that the average movement, sale and slaughter of sheep as a result of the Chernobyl disaster could not have come at a worse time.

The lamb season is getting into full swing and the farmers have been preparing tens of thousands of animals for market. Most farmers sell their lambs as soon as they reach optimum weight and condition and even a 21-day delay can cause serious losses.

This is partly because prices are highest earliest in the season and tend to fall to their lowest in July. Under the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy, British farmers are guaranteed a minimum return (made up of the market price plus a variable premium) which this week is 26.7p a kilo and falls steadily to 20.6p a kilo by August 4, where it remains until November.

A three week delay in going to market could cost farmers about 54p for an average lamb. Equally seriously, farmers could suffer if the lamb season is delayed by a year earlier when they reached 200p per gallon.

The Institute's figures show a 5.5 per cent increase in demand for aviation spirit in the first quarter compared with a year earlier, but a 4.4 per cent fall in demand for lubricating oils and greases.

Overall demand for petroleum products was 23.5 per cent lower than a year earlier. This mainly reflects the impact of last year's miners' strike, when demand for fuel oil was much higher than usual.

Why was nothing done earlier about the young lambs which were suckling? It is probable that the ewes' milk was contaminated and if this was proved then surely the best step would have been to slaughter a few lambs sooner to see the extent to which they were affected. It seems obvious to me that the radiation was transferred from the grass through the ewes' lactatory system to the lambs' flesh.

Then the question arises as to how long a ewe will go on giving contaminated milk. Will it be a matter of days or weeks? Or will the effect continue over months or years? The fall-out is likely to affect the incidence of human cancer according to some scientists. What then will it do to sheep? There are questions about the genetic mutations which could well alter the characteristics of the victims and their descendants. The Ministry has said that this is unlikely—but can farmers be certain?

I must declare an interest at this point. Every year, in common with many other lowland farmers, I buy young breeding sheep from the very markets which are now closed. How safe are they going to be for me to buy? They come from my farm at about six months old and should live between seven and nine years? Will this catastrophe affect their future development or will their lives be shortened and their reproductive process impaired?

The present problems result not from an act of war but from an ordinary industrial accident. And there can be no guarantee that it will not be repeated somewhere, sometime.

If and when that happens I hope we can rely on the authorities to give us detailed information sooner than they did this time, and to give us more advice on how to cope with the after effects.

LONDON MARKETS

COFFEE PRICES fell back on the London futures market yesterday as speculators who had been hoping for a frost in the Brazilian growing belt withdrew from the market once again. With the weather continuing mild and forecasters predicting no change in the immediate future, pre-weekend covering purchases were sold off and the September position slumped the day 55.3 down to \$1,831.1 a tonne. Dealers said the bearish tone was also influenced by suggestions that Brazil and Colombia were planning export price reductions. Meanwhile the cocoa futures market resumed the slow price drift which was interrupted towards the end of last week. Following Friday's extremely modest gains the early trend yesterday was firmer, but this was reversed under the influence of reported Ivory Coast new crop sales and the September quotation ended the day 58 lower at \$1,279.50 a tonne. LME prices supplied by Amalgamated Metal Trading.

ALUMINIUM			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	766.7	-0.5	777.5/771
3 months	770.5-1	-1	
COPPER			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	956.5-7.5	-0.5	958.5/953
3 months	965.5-4	-0.5	967.5/963
NICKEL			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	2750-5	-1	2755/2745
3 months	2760-10	-1	2765/2755

GOLD			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	340-5	-0.5	340.5/340
3 months	340-5	-0.5	340.5/340
SILVER			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

TIN			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
ZINC			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

SILVER			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
MEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

SILVER			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
MEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

SILVER			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
MEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
3 months	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

INDICES

REUTERS			
June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21
1580.3	1533.7	1758.0	1769.0
(Base: September 15 1981 = 100)			
DOW JONES			
June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21
301.0	297.0	300.0	300.0
(Base: September 15 1981 = 100)			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES			
In tonnes unless otherwise stated.			
June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26
Aluminium	766.7	-0.5	777.5/771
Copper	956.5-7.5	-0.5	958.5/953
Nickel	2750-5	-1	2755/2745
Gold	340-5	-0.5	340.5/340
Silver	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
Tin	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240
Zinc	240-5	-0.5	240.5/240

COCOA			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
COFFEE			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1831.1	-55.3	1831.6/1830.6
3 months	1831.6	-55.3	1832.1/1831.1

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

US MARKETS

COMEX GOLD futures dipped slightly from the highs following the comment of Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, that he was hopeful for progress on Mexico's debt negotiations, reports Reuters.

In slower business gold for August delivery closed at \$343.40 per ounce after making a high of \$344.00 on buying fanned by worries that the resignation of Mexican Finance Minister Silva Herzog could complicate Mexico's effort to negotiate a rescue package. Coffee futures were lower in all months, with scale-down trade buying leading to a slight rise in the market. Commission house selling continued throughout the day pressuring prices. Moving 100 averages continued to look bearish despite last week's slight rise.

NEW YORK			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
COFFEE			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1831.1	-55.3	1831.6/1830.6
3 months	1831.6	-55.3	1832.1/1831.1

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

SUGAR			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5
WHEAT			
Unofficial	Official	High/Low	
2 per tonne	2 per tonne		
Cash	1279.5	-58	1280.0/1279.0
3 months	1280.0	-58	1280.5/1279.5

Apr. 1850/800	11	672/894
BFL 637.0		639.0
Turnover: 134 (82).		
Close High/Low Prev.		
Tankers		
June 1176/1200	1180	1150/1180
July 1080/1100	1095/1092	1075/1100
Aug 990/1020	990	980/1000
Sep 1100/1170	1125	1050/1080
Oct 1200	1200	1200/1225
Dec 1250	1250	1200
BTI 1226.5	--	1215.5
Turnover: 32 (27).		

CURRENCIES; MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar stalls at DM 2.27

The dollar weakened in afternoon European trading, and finished only slightly higher on the day. The US currency had been very firm on Friday in New York, breaking through resistance at DM 2.25, but lost ground yesterday afternoon after failing to consolidate above DM 2.27. Trading was dominated by technical chart resistance points, in the absence of other factors. There was speculation the dollar might move higher in the short term, testing DM 2.30 and Y170, but economic fundamentals were expected to pull the US currency back by the end of the week. Today's first quarter Japanese Gross National Product figures are expected to be disappointing, leading support to the dollar, but dealers will also be watching for May US durable goods orders. Demand for the dollar may be increased by this week's programme of US Treasury note auctions, but trading is likely to be nervous ahead of Friday's US trade figures for May, which are not expected to be significantly better than the April deficit of \$12.07bn.

The dollar rose to DM 2.2485 from DM 2.2470 on Friday, and from DM 2.2470 to DM 2.2485 on Friday. The dollar rose to DM 2.2485 from DM 2.2470 on Friday, and from DM 2.2470 to DM 2.2485 on Friday.

STERLING - Trading range from DM 1.655 to DM 1.658. Exchange rate index 1.5202. Exchange rate index 1.5202.

POUND SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST POUND

June 23	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months	% Six months
US	1.4855-1.5005	1.4955-1.5005	0.38-0.35 pm	2.92 1.07-1.02pm	2.75
Canada	1.25-1.26	1.25-1.26	0.25-0.25 pm	1.41 0.85-0.85pm	1.01
Netherlands	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Belgium	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
France	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Germany	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Italy	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Spain	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Sweden	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Switzerland	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45

Belgian rate is for convertible franc. Financial franc 48.65-46.25. Six-month forward dollar 1.50-1.54c pm. 12-month 2.45-2.50c pm.

DOLLAR SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST DOLLAR

June 23	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months	% Six months
UK	1.4855-1.5005	1.4955-1.5005	0.38-0.35 pm	2.92 1.07-1.02pm	2.75
Canada	1.25-1.26	1.25-1.26	0.25-0.25 pm	1.41 0.85-0.85pm	1.01
Netherlands	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Belgium	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
France	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Germany	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Italy	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Spain	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Sweden	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45
Switzerland	1.75-1.76	1.75-1.76	0.15-0.15 pm	0.45 0.15-0.15pm	0.45

UK and Ireland are quoted in US dollars. Forward discounts apply to US dollar and not to the individual currencies.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

June 23	C	\$	DM	YEN	FFr	Sfr	Hfl	Lira	OS	Sfr
\$	1.000	1.000	0.63-0.65	1.07-1.08	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76	20.36-20.40	1.36-1.37	1.00-1.01	0.85-0.86
DM	0.997	1.500	1.000	1.63-1.65	0.25-0.26	1.10-1.11	33.6-33.8	2.36-2.37	1.80-1.81	1.55-1.56
YEN	0.930	0.630	0.630	1.000	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76	20.36-20.40	1.36-1.37	1.00-1.01	0.85-0.86
FFr	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1.000	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76	20.36-20.40	1.36-1.37	1.00-1.01
Sfr	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	1.000	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76	20.36-20.40	1.36-1.37
Hfl	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	1.000	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76	20.36-20.40
Lira	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	1.000	0.16-0.17	0.75-0.76
OS	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	1.000	0.16-0.17
Sfr	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	1.000

Yen per 1,000 French Fr per 100 Lira per 1,000 Belg Fr per 100.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

June 23	Short	7 Days	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	One Year
Sterling	10.10%	10.10%	10.10%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
US Dollar	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%
DM	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%
YEN	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
FFr	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Sfr	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Hfl	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Lira	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
OS	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Sfr	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%

Long-term Eurodollar: two years 7.75% per cent; three years 8.25% per cent; four years 8.75% per cent; five years 9.25% per cent. Short-term rates are call for US Dollars and Japanese Yen; others, two days' notice.

MONEY MARKETS

UK rates little changed

Interest rates showed very little overall change on London's money market. Three-month interbank money finished at 9.75% per cent, the same as on Friday. Overnight bank bills at 10.10% per cent which proved to be the day's high and drifted later on to a low of 6.75% per cent. The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £50m with factors affecting the market including maturing assistance and a take up of Treasury bills to further £10m. These were partly offset by a fall in the note rate circulation brought forward £80m above target. The Bank gave assistance in the morning of £151m through outright purchase of £20m of eligible bank bills in band 1 at 9.75% per cent and in band 2 at 9.75% per cent and £40m of local authority bills at 9.75% per cent. In band 3 it bought £11m of eligible bank bills, £5m of local authority bills and £2m of Treasury bills at 9.75% per cent and in band 4 £54m of eligible bank bills at 9.75% per cent. In the afternoon assistance came to £287m and comprised purchases of £82m of eligible bank bills in band 2 at 9.75% per cent and in band 3 at 9.75% per cent. Late assistance came to £110m, making a total of £511m. In Frankfurt call money rose.

NEW YORK RATES

June 23	Overnight	One Month	Three Months	Six Months	One Year
Frankfurt	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Paris	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Amsterdam	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
London	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Brussels	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Dublin	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%

MONEY RATES

June 23	Overnight	One Month	Three Months	Six Months	One Year
Frankfurt	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Paris	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Amsterdam	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
London	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Brussels	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%
Dublin	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%	9.75%

FINANCIAL FUTURES

Quiet trading

Most contracts were confined to a narrow range in the London International Futures Exchange yesterday in quiet trading. The market was faced with a number of uncertainties which prevented values from moving much from last week's closing levels.

Comments over the weekend by Japanese officials dampened hopes of a cut in Japanese interest rates while West German officials had already ruled out such a move because of a rise in money supply growth. This reduced the possibilities of a cut in the US discount rate.

In addition tomorrow's meeting of Opec ministers left traders a little cautious while an auction of seven-year US Treasury bonds on the same day created additional uncertainty. Looking further ahead, Friday sees the re-

lease of US trade figures which are likely to influence the argument for lower US interest rates while in Tokyo today figures are expected for the first quarter GNP.

Retail interest was sporadic with the approach of the half year likely to provide additional technical movements. Gift prices and three-month sterling deposits were influenced by a weaker pound against the dollar although the pound remained steady overall and recovered earlier losses against the dollar towards the close. This was too late to affect prices in London however.

LIFTS LONG GILT FUTURES OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put
115	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
116	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
117	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
118	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
119	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
120	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
121	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
122	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
123	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
124	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
125	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
126	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
127	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
128	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
129	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
130	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30

Estimated volume total, Call 57, Put 57. Previous day's open int, Call 5, Put 5.

LIFTS LONG GILT FUTURES OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put
130	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
131	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
132	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
133	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
134	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
135	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
136	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
137	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
138	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
139	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
140	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
141	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
142	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
143	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
144	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
145	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
146	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
147	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
148	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
149	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
150	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30

Estimated volume total, Call 57, Put 57. Previous day's open int, Call 5, Put 5.

LIFTS LONG GILT FUTURES OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put
150	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
151	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
152	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
153	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
154	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
155	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
156	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
157	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
158	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
159	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
160	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
161	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
162	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
163	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
164	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
165	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
166	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
167	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
168	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
169	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
170	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30

Estimated volume total, Call 57, Put 57. Previous day's open int, Call 5, Put 5.

LIFTS LONG GILT FUTURES OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put
170	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
171	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
172	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
173	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
174	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
175	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
176	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
177	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
178	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
179	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
180	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
181	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
182	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
183	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
184	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
185	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
186	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
187	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
188	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
189	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
190	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30

Estimated volume total, Call 57, Put 57. Previous day's open int, Call 5, Put 5.

LIFTS LONG GILT FUTURES OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put
190	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
191	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
192	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
193	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
194	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
195	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
196	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
197	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
198	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
199	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
200	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
201	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
202	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30
203	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.30

AMERICANS—Cont

[illegible]

ENGINEERING—Continued

[illegible]

in Sceptre Res.	400p	-
in Gold Mors.	425p	-

Pacific Exp.	338p	+	
Pacific Res.	222p	+	
Cal. S&W	750p	+	34
Cal. S&W Cont.	133p	+	34
Group	720p	+125	
Mar's Bay II	441p	+12	2.0
Int'l Oil	384p		4.1
ing II	901p	+19	1.5
Corona Res.	994p		
Int'l Mar. Cos. S.I.	594p		5.2
Int'l Mar. Cos.	174p		
Exxon Exploit.	150p	+10	
Alupco	115p		2.7
Stk. Cas. II	115p		6.1
Stk. Cas. I	409p		1.7
to-Comm. Bk. II	115p		3.6
to Can Pipe	805p		6.6

89	47	FKI Elec 10
250	168	Farnett Elec

23	Tex Hops 10b	128	14.25
70	Thyssen Cr20	900	.	24.09%

[illegible]

Stock	Price	+ 8
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Alfa	227	-6	-0.3%	1.1	6.6	4.9
Audi A8	152	-4	-0.2%	0	4.7	0
BMW 7 Series	133	+2	0.4%	3.6	5.3	7.1
Cadillac (M 1 Z)	85					
Chrysler PT	620		0.0%	3.9	3.3	10.4
Chevrolet Blazer S.A.	615		0.0%	2.0	2.4	10.9
Chevrolet Camaro	625	+4	0.7%	0	6.4	0
Chevrolet Impala	465		0.6%	0	6.4	0
Chevrolet Lumina	650					
Chevrolet Malibu	240		11.2	-	6.7	-
Chevrolet Monte Carlo	408	+1	14.0	3.2	4.8	9.0
Chevrolet Nova	495	+2	18.6	3.7	5.8	9.0
Chevrolet Silverado	610	-10	9.5	2.2	-	-
Chevrolet Tahoe	123		1.5%	7.2	1.7	11.1
Chevrolet TrailBlazer	340		9.6%	3.3	3.2	9.2
Chevrolet Venture	40		12.3	0	3.2	0
Chevrolet Vette	13		42.5	-	-	-
Chevrolet Yukon	68	-1	42.4	-2.3	5.0	11.2
Chevrolet Z71	518	+4	10.1%	0	2.6	-

112	63	Frank's Tele
218	99	Kode Int.
131	47	SA BA Index

DATE RECEIVED: _____

[illegible]

Hg ²⁺ Kr100	5204 ₂ -1 ₂	vi
che Blr DM50....	5234 ₂ +1	gr

ins. JKO 1	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 2	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 3	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 4	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 5	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 6	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 7	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 8	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 9	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 10	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 11	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 12	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 13	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 14	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 15	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 16	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 17	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 18	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 19	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 20	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 21	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 22	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 23	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 24	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 25	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 26	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 27	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 28	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 29	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 30	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 31	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 32	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 33	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 34	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 35	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 36	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 37	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 38	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 39	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 40	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 41	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 42	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 43	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 44	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 45	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 46	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 47	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 48	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 49	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 50	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 51	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 52	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 53	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 54	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 55	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 56	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20
ins. JKO 57	520	1	615.9	7.3	63	20

420	310	Microgen HI
220	120	Microlease
100	100	Microgen HI

19	Brewster 1p.....	20	.....	0.8
54	Brit. Vending 10p.....	130	.....	1.4
66	British Fed.....	375	.....	5.0

[illegible]

Just. Bk. A\$1	263	10
West. El	492	-10

[illegible]

160	120	PPL 10p.....
175	143	4-Penny & G

58	Hazlewood 20p	883	-5	9.5
70	Hillarts 10p	220	.....	th2.9

[illegible]

Large Merc. 10p.	45		
Financial	328	-2	

[illegible]

23	10	48	49
67	40	40	40

26	Park Pouch 200	243	...	...	15.00
27	Premier Gp RD 50	440	...	...	08.00
28	BHM	225	...	...	15.25

[illegible]

J. J. ...	187	-4
ng King	217	-3
... ..	329	-5

[illegible]

250	84	System 80
340	280	System 80
616	635	TAK Corp.

42	Whitehurst's Food Sp	48	+4	42.0
53	Walden Sp	50		1.75

[illegible]

50p 257

[illegible]

107	75	PHOTOGRAPHY
106	54	WISN. Select
100	00	WISN. Select

58	Queens Moat Sp.....	72	+1½	1.6
12	Bo 7pcx Pl. □	127	+1	7.2

[illegible]

EA ..	142
Sh Dressing	80

142	125 02	1	-
86	10 0	33	0
40 08	59	31	1
125	-1	173 24	37 15 h
10		040	- 313 .

215	108	Beardford 100
69	47	Beardford 100
68	71	Beardford 100

18	Aman	139w	02
30	Amber led 10u	245w	AS

15	Subarea Group F320	522	4	5	0175	5	2	2	0	9	5	100	82	Soldier's Name	153	04.0	21	17	18
42	Army, African Fin Type	54	-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	789	81	Marconi Code	64	4.29	15	91	03
												109	81	49Pork & Crane 10p	100	L2.7	24	96	13

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

[illegible]

INSURANCES

[illegible]

10

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

Account Dealing Dates
Option
 First Declared Last Account
 Dealings Dealing Day
 June 2 June 12 June 13 June 23
 June 16 June 26 June 27 July 7
 June 30 July 10 July 11 July 21
 * New-listed securities may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

Leading shares suffered their first setback in eight trading sessions when the Dow Jones Industrial Average stepped back yesterday. Publication of two business surveys—doubling the Chancellor's predictions for UK economic growth—both the CBI and LBS were optimistic on the outlook for inflation—may have influenced investment managers to be more cautious.

On the other hand, some may have decided to conserve their resources for the impending Morgan Grenfell and Thames TV share flotations. Whatever the reason, the absence of the recent selective demand from these sources pushed out loose trading stock from short-term operators.

The realisation of profits established during the sustained price advance initially brought only a tentative reaction. The decline accelerated, however, as dealers took the opportunity to mark prices down more sharply, offering opinions that Wall Street was unlikely to hold the technical upsurge which occurred late on Friday. This was indeed the case for the Dow Jones index reacted sharply in the early trade yesterday.

The forecasts of slower UK growth affected the Electrical sector more than any other. GEC came under selling pressure and led the retreat, but Rael Electronics also succumbed awaiting today's preliminary statement. The broader market scene was measured by the FT indices which gave up small early gains to close at the day's lowest. The FT-SE 100 share index ended 14.4 down at 1338.2, while the FT Ordinary share index closed 15.2 off at 1338.2.

Government securities opened higher, most at Friday's enhanced late levels. The recovery was largely a reflection of the better trend in the US bond market. Business was generally light and potential investors were not discouraged by sterling's easier tone against the dollar; the pound went higher on most Continental currencies. Longer-dated gilts, however, were narrowly edged, with the 10-year opening levels and closed showing gains ranging to 1.4. Index-linked issues participated in the rally, despite the fact that forecasts on inflation. Renewed hedge buying against equity market commitments left some stocks higher on balance.

Royals lower

Royals fell 25 to 842p among Dux Composites following reports that New York could follow Florida's recent decision to cut premiums on a wide range of policies, including those for commercial properties. Elsewhere, General Accident relinquished 12 at 540p and Commercial Union gave up 4 at 305p. Lloyds Broker C.E. Heath remained a friendless market and fell 28 further to 540p; it was announced last week that the

Institutional buyers hold off and equities suffer a reversal

group had made a bid approach to Dewey Warren, 5 off at 135p. NatWest succumbed to renewed profit-taking, the old closing 10 easier at 492p, and the new mid-price 11 lower at 287p premium. Lloyd's, meanwhile, rumoured to be about to increase its bid for Standard Chartered, gave up 4 at 358p; SC cheapened 4 at 503p. Merchant banks were selectively firm, still reflecting hopes that the forthcoming Morgan Grenfell flotation will be a success. Leopold Joseph added 15 at 480p as did Mercury International at 785p, after 810p. Among Hire Purchases, Equity and General reacted a penny more at 21p on further consideration of the disappointing annual results.

Breweries finished a shade easier for choice following yet another lacklustre business. Guinness, firm last week reflecting an encouraging notice emanating from a broker's meeting, ran back 5 to 320p, while Scott and Newcastle closed 3 off at 207p; the latter's preliminary figures are scheduled for July 1. Among regional USM-quoted G. Ruddle hardened a couple of pence to 165p in response to the annual figures.

Brownlee emerged as an outstanding late feature in the Building sector, jumping 25 to 99p on news of the bid approaches. Mandays put on 11 to 385p following details of the sale of its 11.3 per cent stake in Usher Walker, but Istock Johnson fell 10 to 108p on the proposed £2.5m rights issue. Meyer International, a firm market of late on the results, retreated 12 at 267p and remained a profit-taking in Helical Bar left a close of 230p, down 5.

ICI drifted lower to finish 5 off at 974p.

Marks and Spencer dull

Leading Retailers closed a pence easier for choice after another extremely subdued session. Marks and Spencer attracted a fair measure of attention, however, and fell 15p before settling 5 cheaper on balance at 196p following an adverse press mention. Barton, the subject of adverse comment in support last week following a broker's "buy" recommendation, eased 6 to 294p on sporadic profit-taking. Sainsbury shed 2 to 154p in the wake of its agreed share-exchange bid for Millers Lescage, finally 25 higher at 215p, after 225p. Secondary Stores, on the other hand, provided a bright spot. S. Casket responded to persistent speculative demand and rose 4 to 52p, while Ellis and Goldstein were wanted at 812p, a gain of 5. Among Shoes and Leather counters, Style dipped 10 to 243p reflecting nervous offerings in front of tomorrow's annual meeting.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES									
	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	Year
Government Secs	90.47	90.32	90.47	90.43	90.33	90.32	90.31	90.30	90.30
Fixed Interest	96.61	96.43	96.61	96.56	96.65	96.56	96.55	96.54	96.54
Ordinary 9	1338.2	1333.4	1330.0	1340.1	1330.0	965.2	1325.9	1325.9	1325.9
Gold Mines	208.5	213.8	216.7	220.9	207.0	440.2	440.2	440.2	440.2
Ord. Div. Yield	4.12	4.08	4.08	4.11	4.14	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20
Earnings Yld % (m)	9.67	9.61	9.64	9.50	9.50	12.02	12.02	12.02	12.02
P/E Ratio (m)	22.37	22.41	22.36	22.29	22.19	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15
Total Returns (Est.)	23.89	23.54	24.54	24.33	24.34	22.16	22.16	22.16	22.16
Equity Turnover (m)	307.68	271.61	248.40	242.50	242.50	242.50	242.50	242.50	242.50
Equity Gains	21.80	22.88	22.31	22.31	20.40	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85
Shares Traded (m)	238.7	281.1	242.2	285.9	140.6	1,174.7	1,174.7	1,174.7	1,174.7

Opening: 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Noon 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m.
 1335.6 1349.9 1343.7 1340.3 1340.0 1339.8 1338.5

Day's High 1354.2, Day's Low 1338.0
 Basis: 100 Govt. Secs 15/10/26, Fixed Int. 19/26, Ordinary 17/26, Gold Mines 12/26, SE Activity 19/4 "M=11.59.

LONDON REPORT AND LATEST SHARE INDEX TEL. 01-246 8026

Leading Electricals were looking distinctly unsettled pending today's preliminary statement from Rael, which settled 6 lower at 194p after 192p. Similar falls were recorded in British Telecom, 232p, and Plessey, 232p, while GEC, following bullish reviews given yesterday, fell 15p to 540p. In contrast, Cable and Wireless, preliminary figures due tomorrow, fell 10 to 858p. Good annual results left Volvo 10 higher at 320p, but Airtel remained a poor market and fell 5 further to 50p. Profit-taking clipped 8 from Odeon Instruments and falls of a like amount were recorded in STC, 145p, and BSR, 97p.

Apart from Hawker, which remained an unsettled market at 557p down 10 following the recent cautious statement by the chairman, falls in the Engineering leaders were limited to a few pence. Elsewhere, James Neill responded smartly to favourable press mention with a gain of 24 at 800p, but comment on the preliminary figures in the subject of adverse comment in support last week following a broker's "buy" recommendation, eased 6 to 294p on sporadic profit-taking. Sainsbury shed 2 to 154p in the wake of its agreed share-exchange bid for Millers Lescage, finally 25 higher at 215p, after 225p. Secondary Stores, on the other hand, provided a bright spot. S. Casket responded to persistent speculative demand and rose 4 to 52p, while Ellis and Goldstein were wanted at 812p, a gain of 5. Among Shoes and Leather counters, Style dipped 10 to 243p reflecting nervous offerings in front of tomorrow's annual meeting.

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FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS									
	Index No.	Day's Change	Index No.	Day's Change	Index No.	Day's Change	Index No.	Day's Change	Index No.
1 CAPITAL GOODS (213)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
2 Building Materials (26)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
3 Contracting, Construction (29)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
4 Electronics (12)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
5 Electricals (38)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
6 Mechanical Engineering (63)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
7 Metals and Metal Forming (17)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
8 Motors (16)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
9 Other Industrial Materials (22)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
10 CONSUMER GROUP (123)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
11 Food Manufacturers (22)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
12 Food Retailing (13)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
13 Health and Household Products (10)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
14 Leisure (25)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
15 Publishing & Printing (14)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
16 Packaging and Paper (14)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
17 Textiles (17)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
18 Tobacco (2)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
19 Other Goods (88)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
20 Chemicals (21)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
21 Office Equipment (14)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
22 Shipping and Transport (12)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
23 Telephone Networks (2)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
24 Miscellaneous (49)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
25 INDUSTRIAL GROUP (143)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
26 Oil & Gas (17)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
27 NON-SHARE INDEX (508)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
28 FINANCIAL GROUP (134)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
29 Banks (7)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
30 Insurance (Life) (9)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
31 Insurance (Compensation) (7)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
32 Insurance (General) (2)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
33 Merchant Banks (11)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
34 Property (50)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
35 Other Financial (23)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
36 Investment Trusts (103)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
37 Mining Finance (3)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
38 Overseas Traders (14)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
39 ALL-SHARE INDEX (735)	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41
40 FT-SE 100 SHARE INDEX	729.99	-1.1	8.19	15.57	8.22	738.40	738.41	738.41	738.41

FT-SE 100 SHARE INDEX 1338.2, 1333.4, 1330.0, 1340.1, 1330.0, 965.2, 1325.9, 1325.9, 1325.9

FT-SE 100 SHARE INDEX 1338.2, 1333.4, 1330.0, 1340.1, 1330.0, 965.2, 1325.9, 1325.9, 1325.9

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23.4 per cent stake, rallied well to close 9 farmer at 122p. Oliver Resources, on the other hand, fell away to 8p before settling a net 3 lower at 10p, following the proposed placement of 8.5m ordinary shares at 8p a share.

Laurie clipped a penny to 242p as sentiment was unsettled by adverse press comment in the wake of US litigation. Elsewhere in Overseas Traders, occasional interest was shown for Bonstead, a couple of pence dearer at 38p.

Plantations made progress across the board. Harrisson Matkayan, 72p, and Consolidated Plantations, 61p, improved 6 and 5 respectively.

Continuing nervousness over the situation in South Africa saw the Financial Rand ease afresh and Gold shares move down on general lack of interest and persistent small selling. Bullion failed to provide any stimulus to markets and closed 25 cents easier to \$340.75 an ounce. The Gold Mines index fell away for the third consecutive trading day and settled a further 1.5 off at 210.5.

Movements in the heavyweights Golds were generally restricted to 1 in either direction but cheaper pricing issues showed a majority of often substantial falls. Blyvoor dropped 26 to 274p, Doornfontein retreated 28 to 504p, Libatonev was friendless and finally 51 lower at 731p. Venterpost dipped 31 to 256p.

South African Financials reacted to the sombre picture reflected by the Rand and fell away to close 4 off at 238p. Gellat lost 50 to 500p and Miners 35 to 540p while Rand Mines Properties slipped back 10 to 200p, hit by a 70p fall.

In London-based Financials Consolidated Gold Fields attracted modest support and ended the session a net 6 harder

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES

Prices at 3pm, June 23

Kidder, Peabody Securities Limited

Market Makers in Euro-Securities

An affiliate of
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Incorporated
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New York • London • Paris • Geneva • Zurich • Hong Kong • Tokyo

Continued on Page 43

Prices at 3pm, June 23

OVER-THE-COUNTER Nasdaq national market, 2:30pm prices

FINANCIAL TIMES

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

WALL STREET

Determined attempt to regain poise

A DETERMINED attempt was made on Wall Street yesterday to recover its poise after Friday's upsurge in blue chips as the triple witching hour wrought its spell, writes Terry Byland in New York.

Investors were held in check by continuing doubts about the pace of the US economy, interest rates and oil prices. On the international front, this week brings a meeting of the Opec countries, while domestically, markets face US Treasury mini-refunding auctions of \$14bn in four-year and seven-year securities.

As expected, the market leaders opened sharply lower as the witching hour buying programmes were switched off. Turnover was above recent levels although the institutions took a cautious role.

However, selling was light, and prices soon rallied from their early lows.

At 3pm the Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.84 at 1,871.70.

Industrials were chastened by a downgrading of gross national product estimates by a group of private econo-

mists. The group indicated that GNP was growing by only 2.3 per cent annually, less even than the Commerce Department's revised estimates which upset the market last week.

The stock market was restrained by IBM, down 5% at \$146% as traders awaited the second-quarter earnings report. Digital Equipment eased 3% to \$84%, and Burroughs, moving into the slot of IBM's major competitor, eased 5% to \$81%.

The Detroit car makers joined the general trend, Ford shedding 5% to \$53% and General Motors 3% to \$78%.

There was little immediate response to the Opec meeting in Yugoslavia - Sheikh Yassini reportedly said he expected no new accord on oil pricing.

Exxon, at \$80%, shed 8%, Atlantic Richfield eased 5% to \$53% and Chevron 5% to \$39%. Airline issues, traditionally a barometer of oil prices, remained subdued by fears of an impending price war.

United, at \$51%, held steady in thin trade while American fell 5% to \$51%, also in slack turnover. Pan Am, down 4% at \$5%, bumped the year's low, with investors still fearful that the stake held by Resorts International might come on the market following settlement of the estate of Resorts' founder.

The Dow transportation average was again borne down by weakness in rail stocks, which are often regarded as a guide to the industrial outlook. Burlington Northern dipped 5% to \$84%, and Union Pacific shed 5% to \$55%.

Retail stocks burst to life May Department Stores bid \$2.7bn for Associated Dry Goods, which would give the

US industry a new, and leading name. The bid, while generous, is aggressive, and Wall Street scented the first shots in an expected takeover battle in the industry.

Stock in Associated jumped 18% to \$84%, in heavy turnover, almost matching the \$86 a share in May stock to be offered if the bid proceeds. May at \$83 fell 3% and saw some selling pressure.

The excitement brought brisk trading in K mart, the largest US discount store, which added 1% at \$53% and in J.C. Penney, up 1% at \$82%, and in Federated Department Stores, up 2% at \$88%.

The tobacco industry's health liability woes were eased when US Tobacco won a major court victory, which cleared it of responsibility for the death from cancer of a snuff-taker. US Tobacco, which manufactures only non-smoking tobacco, jumped 1% to \$41%. Philip Morris, 5% up at \$70%, and R.J. Reynolds, up 5% at \$51%, extended the gains which have greeted the court ruling.

In the credit markets federal funds remained comfortably below 7 per cent, with the Fed again making \$1.5bn in customer repurchases when the rate touched 6% per cent.

Bond prices, sustained by firmness in bond futures, rallied from early minor losses to edge higher.

TOKYO

Institutions fuel another rise to peak

INSTITUTIONAL investors and businesses in Tokyo further stepped up trading in large-capital stocks yesterday despite their continued rise, writes Shigeo Nishiwaki of Jiji Press.

The Nikkei average added 3.03 to 17,457.89 reaching a fourth consecutive all-time high in a continuation of the upward trend which began on June 18.

Volume shrank from last Friday's 1,450m shares but was still high at 868.07m shares. Losses outpaced gains 433 to 418, with 129 issues unchanged.

Low-priced large-capital issues such as steel, shipbuilding and gas concerns were again actively traded by institutional investors. Although their price moves are usually narrow, some registered large gains.

Nippon Kokan, the most active stock with 128.21m shares traded, advanced Y8 to Y183. Tokyo Gas gained Y19 to Y506 with 69.69m shares changing hands. Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries, with 68.23m shares changing hands, added Y17 to Y307 while Sumitomo Metal Industries and Nippon Steel rose Y1 each to Y184 and Y181, respectively. Kawasaki Steel closed Y2 higher at Y190.

Penta-Ocean Construction, which investors expect to win a dredging order if the second Panama project goes ahead, jumped Y34 to Y675. Some trading houses also became popular following their moves into the communications market and expected improvement in profits due to falling interest rates. Mitsubishi finished Y20 higher at Y800.

Blue chips held firm, but trading was low. Fuji Photo Film climbed Y40 to Y2,880.

The market became bullish on May 19 and between then and last Saturday, the Nikkei average has added 1,780 points. Of the rise, 379 points were added in the past four days, unsettling investors. But institutional investors with surplus funds continued to seek capital gains, countering to some extent the cautious mood. Another positive factor was that investment trusts formed in June reached almost Y400bn, promising big stock purchases toward the end of the month.

In contrast, bond prices plunged, with market participants discouraged by the huge selling of futures, totalling more than Y100bn, by one brokerage house. Although the market calmed temporarily when the Bank of Japan conducted a buying operation of Y50bn, selling resumed later.

The yield on the 8.2 per cent government bond maturing in July 1985 rose from 4.75 per cent on Saturday to 4.85 per cent. The 5.1 per cent government bond due in March 1986 climbed from 5.10 per cent to 5.20 per cent.

SOUTH AFRICA

A FALL in the value of the rand took gold shares higher as the bullion price firm.

Among golds Driefontein rose R1.60 to R56.80 and Free State Consolidated 50 cents to R35. However, Buffelsfontein, which went ex-dividend, slipped R8 to R81.50.

Mining financials and other minings followed the trend upwards, with Anglo American adding 25 cents to R47.50, Rustenburg Platinum 50 cents to R37.25 and diamond share De Beers 45 cents to R27.95.

CANADA

ACTIVE trading took Toronto marginally lower although many sectors were largely unchanged.

Among industrials CCL Industries Class B traded C\$4 down to C\$18, and Bow Valley Industries fell C\$3 to C\$10.4. Oils traded mixed. Imperial Oil Class A added C\$5 to C\$39% while Texaco Canada fell C\$3 to C\$26.4.

Gold closed largely unchanged. Campbell Red Lake traded C\$4 higher to C\$20% while Dome Mines was steady at C\$8%.

EUROPE

Frankfurt springs to life

TECHNICAL FACTORS dominated trading on the European bourses yesterday.

The upturn in Frankfurt came after three sessions of losses. Brisk bargain-hunting injected some life into moderately active trading that took the Commerzbank index 27.8 higher to 1,978.9.

Banks and electricals scored solid gains while retailers and utilities turned lower.

Dresdner sprinted DM 5.20 ahead to DM 422.70 while Deutsche Bank closed DM 5 up at DM 792. Insurer Allianz jumped DM 95 to DM 2430.

Brown Boveri started in the electrical sector with its DM 10 advance to DM 315 while Siemens settled DM 9 higher at DM 643. Varta moved against the trend with its DM 1 decline to DM 286.

Steels were mixed but mostly higher, with Hoesch DM 9 up at DM 189. Gains of DM 2.50 each were scored by Mannesmann at DM 215 and Thyssen at DM 186.50.

Leading chemicals firmed amid growing investor belief that strong mid-year earnings were soon to be released. Hoechst rallied DM 8.50 to DM 273 while BASF picked up DM 6.80 to DM 292.50.

Scherer, however, dropped DM 3 to DM 567, and metals refiner Degussa retreated DM 1 to DM 439.50.

Bonds were quiet as foreign buyers remained out of the market. The Bundesbank bought DM 38.3m worth of domestic paper after purchasing DM 97.5m on Friday.

Paris also scored a technical recovery as volatile trading began in the new account with one eye on Wall Street's Friday surge.

Trading was suspended in several issues due to large order imbalances. Générale de Fonderie managed a dazzling 19 per cent (FFr 4.60) jump to FFr 29.80 while Pochain scored a 6 per cent gain with its FFr 5.70 advance to FFr 71. Scrog proved a weak spot with its FFr 14.50 drop to FFr 62.50.

The exchange also began experimental continuous trading in five shares, which is expected to spread to 50 issues by the end of the year.

Brussels saw heavy demand for domestic issues with particular attention on the flotation of 227,000 shares in ACEC's 65 per cent owned subsidiary Barco Industries. The shares, 30 times oversubscribed, finished trading at BFr 2,650 against its opening quote of BFr 2,200.

Petrofina jumped BFr 120 to BFr 8,230 while UCB among chemicals gained BFr 210 to BFr 7,950 on rekindled speculation that it may merge in some form with Solvay, which was unchanged at BFr 7,550.

Amsterdam lost momentum after an opening gain. Internationals featured although Unilever lost an early Fl 6 gain to finish only Fl 2.30 higher at Fl 488.30. Royal Dutch added Fl 1.70 to Fl 188.70 while Philips was unchanged at Fl 54.10 amid plans for Far Eastern expansion.

Fokker suffered a Fl 3.90 drop to Fl 94.60 after the rumours that the aircraft group was poised for a huge order from Guinness Peat Aviation proved incorrect. It revealed, however, two smaller overseas deals worth Fl 135m.

Stockholm lost ground in thin trading. Among weak industrials Asea picked up SKr 3 to SKr 379 on plans to buy Finnish electrical equipment maker Stromberg.

Electrolux was the most active with its SKr 3 drop to SKr 269 while Volvo suffered a sharp SKr 13 decline to SKr 399.

Milan was cautiously firmer ahead of the results of the Sicilian elections.

Zurich was mixed in light volume while Madrid made slight gains in post-election trading. Oslo edged higher.

AUSTRALIA

SUBDUED trading left Sydney marginally lower despite some support for blue-chip industrials. The All Ordinaries index ended the session 0.1 down at 1,214.8.

Late trading in BHP, Australia's biggest public company, took the share 4 cents down to A\$8.76.

Bell Resources added 5 cents to A\$4.35 while its parent Bell Group was 10 cents higher at A\$9.50. Among gold mines Foster added 5 cents to A\$3.05 and Kildston Gold 4 cents to A\$6.20 on news of a weaker Australian dollar.

LONDON

INSTITUTIONAL investors retreated to the sidelines in London leaving leading shares lower for the first time in eight trading sessions.

Forecasts of lower growth helped to encourage the cautious mood, with electricals the worst affected. GEC lost 8p to close at 196p in active trading.

Elsewhere among actives, British Aerospace closed 5p lower at 525p. British Telecom 5p to 232p. Hawker Siddeley 10p to 55p. Marks and Spencer 6p to 528p. Heath (CE) 28p to 540p and Hestair 17p to 188p.

Gains included Bowater Industries, up 5p to 330p. Keep Trust, 18p to 153p, and AE, 6p to 245p.

In the government bond market, long-dated gilts showed gains ranging to 1/2, largely following the improved trend in the US bond market.

Chief price changes, Page 41; Details, Page 44; Share information service, Pages 38-39

SINGAPORE

STRONG buying interest continued in Singapore taking prices higher across a broad front.

Low-priced stocks were actively traded while higher-priced issues scored good gains.

The Straits Times industrial index added 18.97 to close at 776.89, a high for the year.

Among banks DBS closed 15 cents up at S\$7.10, Malay Banking was 14 cents higher at S\$4.06 and UOB added 20 cents to S\$4.26.

Elsewhere, Singapore Press was up 15 cents to S\$1.70, Singapore Airlines added 10 cents to S\$1.05 and Genting ended 2 cents higher at S\$5.78.

HONG KONG

TECHNICAL selling by institutions left Hong Kong lower despite gains early in the session. The Hang Seng index closed 3.89 down at 1,777.15.

Utilities, however, generally held steady. China Light closed unchanged at HK\$16.10 as did Hongkong and China Gas at HK\$16.80 and Hongkong Telephone at HK\$11.90. Hongkong Electric, however, lost 5 cents to HK\$8.85.

Banks were also largely unchanged. Hang Seng ended steady at HK\$35 and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was unchanged at HK\$6.80.

STOCK MARKET MONITORS				
STOCK MARKET INDICES				
	June 23	Previous	Year ago	
NEW YORK				
DJ Industrials	1,871.70	1,878.54	1,324.46	
DJ Transport	769.13	778.13	649.58	
DJ Utilities	159.83	160.49	166.85	
S&P Composite	246.52	247.56	189.66	
LONDON				
FT Ord	1,338.2	1,353.4	965.2	
FT-SE 100	1,622.8	1,637.2	1,262.0	
FT-A All-share	801.5	806.80	612.99	
FT-A 500	865.34	881.20	688.96	
FT Gold mines	208.5	213.8	440.2	
FT-A Long gilt	9.43	9.48	10.56	
TOKYO				
Nikkei	17,457.89	17,403.13	12,634.7	
Tokyo SE	1,351.00	1,344.56	1,010.64	
AUSTRALIA				
All Ord.	1,214.8	1,214.7	853.7	
Metals & Mins.	524.4	524.8	507.4	
AUSTRIA				
Credit Aktien	n/a	116.45	104.35	
BERLIN				
Belgian SE	3,642.06	3,620.63	2,332.93	
CANADA				
Toronto				
Metals & Mins	2,126.2	2,131.11	1,886	
Composite	3,056.3	3,059.13	2,701.4	
Montreal				
Portfolio	1,550.69	1,550.01	132.04	
DENMARK				
SE	n/a	214.46	193.54	
FRANCE				
CAC Gen	n/a	340.80	225.6	
Ind. Yendence	n/a	129.10	82.5	
WEST GERMANY				
FAZ-Aktien	658.69	649.72	483.46	
Commerzbank	1,978.90	1,951.13	1,427.1	
HONG KONG				
Hang Seng	1,777.15	1,781.04	1,561.13	
ITALY				
Banca Comm.	668.26	653.84	335.66	
NETHERLANDS				
ANP-CBS Gen	291.60	290.6	209.8	
ANP-CBS Ind	285.30	284.5	174.9	
NORWAY				
Oslo SE	364.84	363.08	324.24	
SINGAPORE				
Straits Times	776.89	726.41	784.66	
SOUTH AFRICA				
JSE Golds	-	1,262.3	1,000.3	
JSE Industrials	-	1,152.4	977.7	
SPAIN				
Madrid SE	181.63	181.66	78.79	
SWEDEN				
J & P	2,435.15	2,448.0	1,316.47	
SWITZERLAND				
Swiss Bank Ind	565.00	568.6	437.6	
WORLD				
MS Capital Int'l	322.20	320.0	212.7	
COMMODITIES				
	June 23	Prev		
(London)				
Silver (spot fixing)	342.95p	339.35p		
Copper (cash)	£937.00	£929.50		
Coffee (September)	£1,821	£1,836.50		
Oil (Brent blend)	\$11.425	\$11.53		
GOLD (per ounce)				
	June 23	Prev		
London	\$341.25	\$341.00		
Zurich	\$340.70	\$339.75		
Paris (fixing)	\$340.65	\$339.84		
Luxembourg	\$339.40	\$338.75		
New York (Aug)	\$343.30	\$342.70		

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